NEW GODS™
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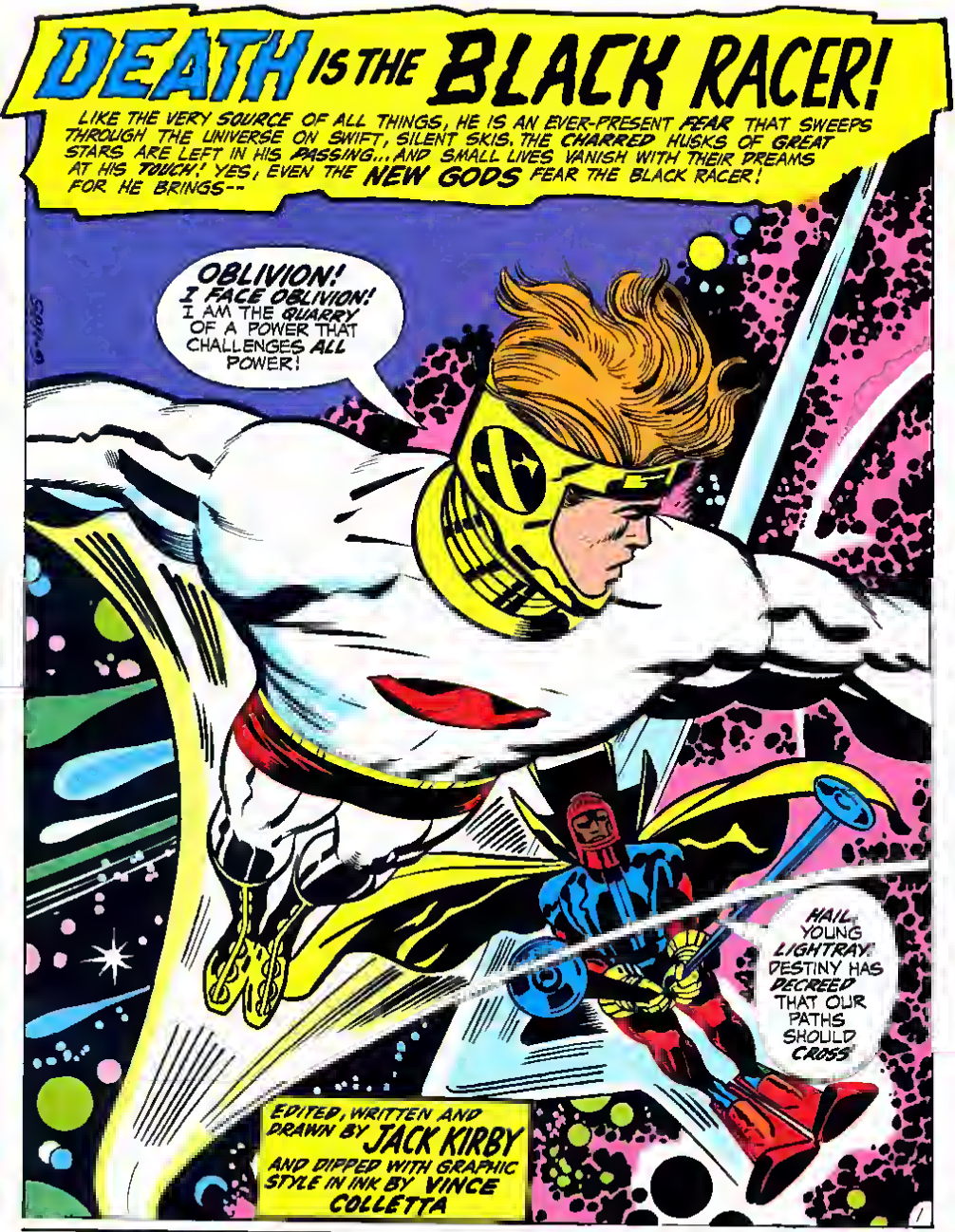
JULY 1984
NO 2
DON'T LET HIM TOUCH YOU!
DEATH IS THE BLACK RACER!
KIRBY & ROYER

NO. 3

COVER GALLERY



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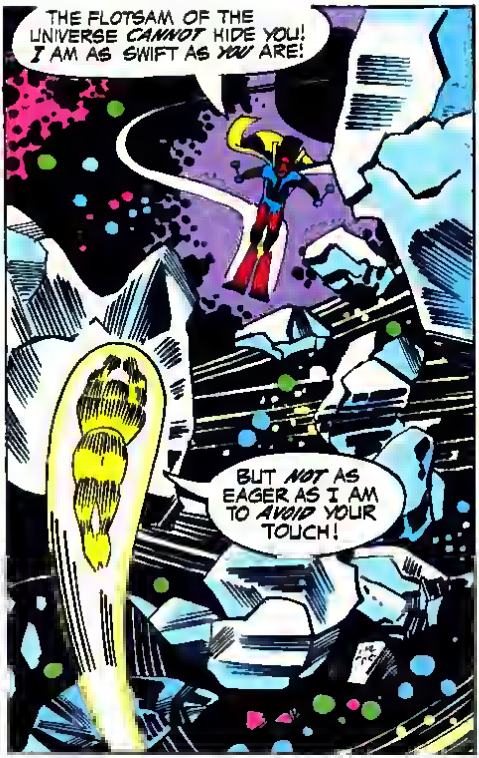
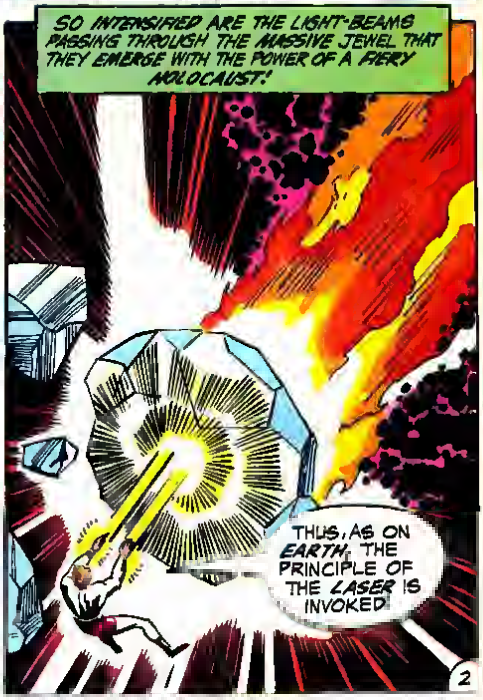
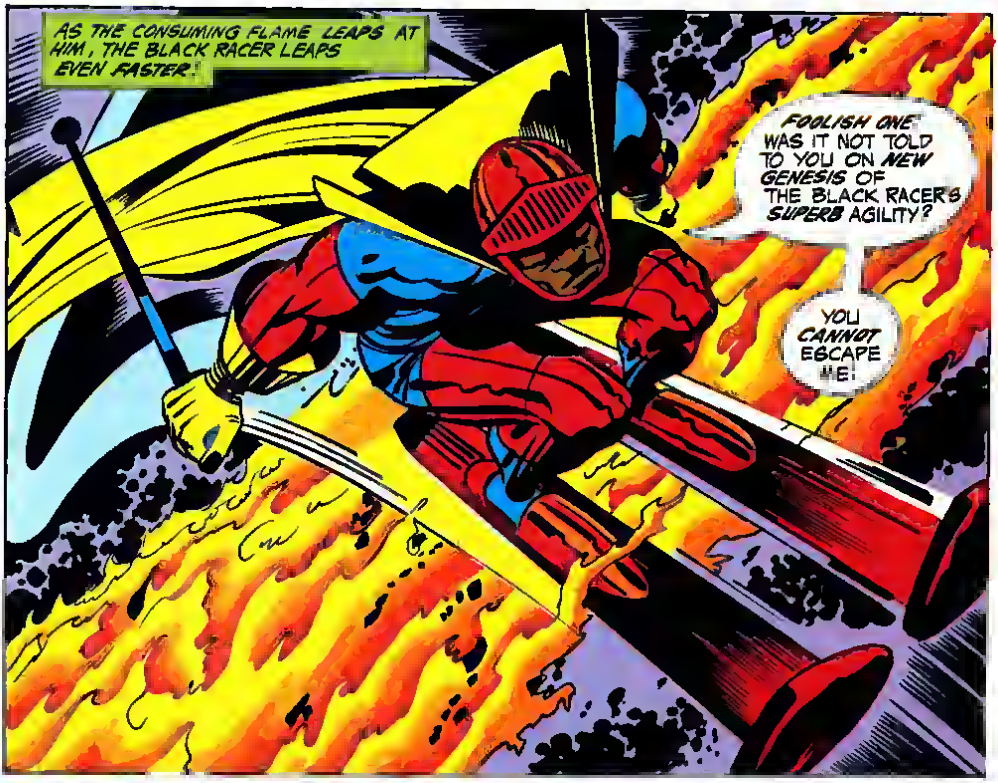
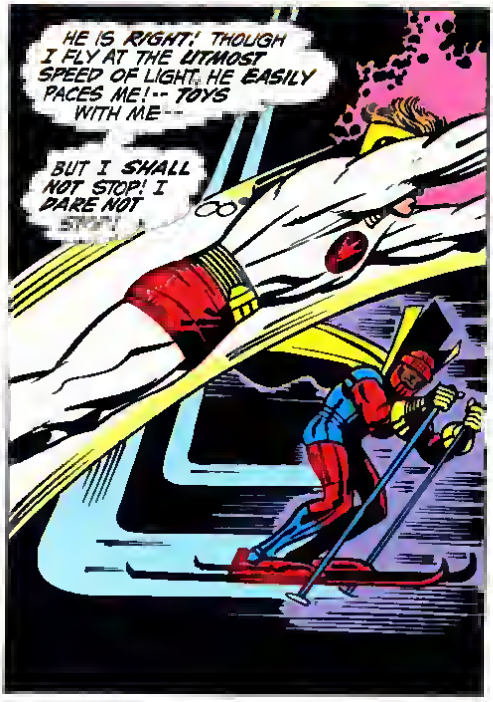

THE FLOTSAM OF THE UNIVERSE CANNOT HIDE YOU! I AM AS SWIFT AS YOU ARE!
BUT NOT AS EAGER AS I AM TO AVOID YOUR TOUCH!

I GOVERN THE POWER OF LIGHT-- AND I MUST USE IT TO WARD OFF THE RACER!
THE JEWEL-LIKE SUBSTANCE OF THESE METEOROIDS MAY INTENSIFY THIS POWER OF MINE!
I AM ALMOST UPON YOU, LIGHTRAY! EVEN ONE SUCH AS YOU MUST SUBMIT TO ME!

I SHALL FLASH THE BRIGHTEST OF BEAMS THROUGH THIS PRISM-STONE!


SO INTENSIFIED ARE THE LIGHT-BEAMS PASSING THROUGH THE MASSIVE JEWEL THAT THEY EMERGE WITH THE POWER OF A FIERY HOLOCAUST!
THUS, AS ON EARTH, THE PRINCIPLE OF THE LASER IS INVOKED!


AS THE CONSUMING FLAME LEAPS AT HIM, THE BLACK RACER LEAPS EVEN FASTER!
FOOLISH ONE! WAS IT NOT TOLD TO YOU ON NEW GENESIS OF THE BLACK RACER'S SUPERB AGILITY?
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME!


HE IS RIGHT! THOUGH I FLY AT THE UTMOST SPEED OF LIGHT, HE EASILY PACES ME!-- TOYS WITH ME--
BUT I SHALL NOT STOP! I DARE NOT STOP!

YOUR TIME HAS COME, YOUNG ONE! I AM NO RESPECTER OF TENDER YEARS! PREPARE FOR MY TOUCH!
NO! NO!
3

THIS IS THE DRAMA OF DESPERATION AND DEATH, ENFOLDING THE DESTINIES OF GODS AND MEN! LIGHTRAY, FIGHTING MADLY TO PROLONG HIS LAST, COSMIC MOMENTS, GIVES LITTLE THOUGHT TO EARTH, WHICH IS SOON TO BE CAUGHT IN THE SAME WEB!

ORION IS THERE!

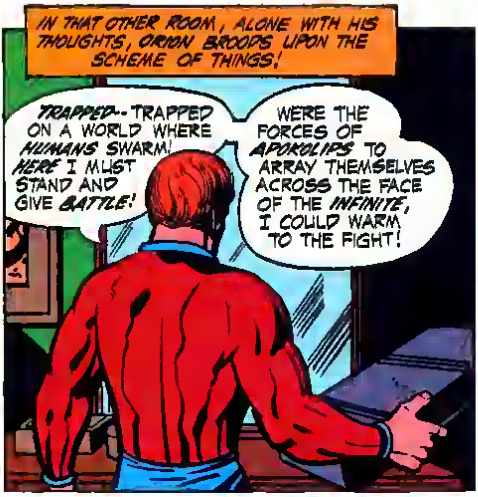
FIGHTING IN THE CAUSE OF NEW GENESIS AND THE NEW GODS!

WE'VE DONE AS YOU ASKED, ORION! WE'VE BOUGHT YOU CLOTHES WORN ON EARTH!

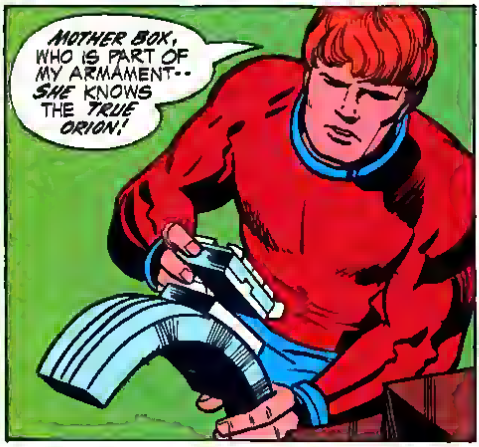
I MUST ADMIT HE'LL PUT THOSE FASHION ADS TO SHAME!

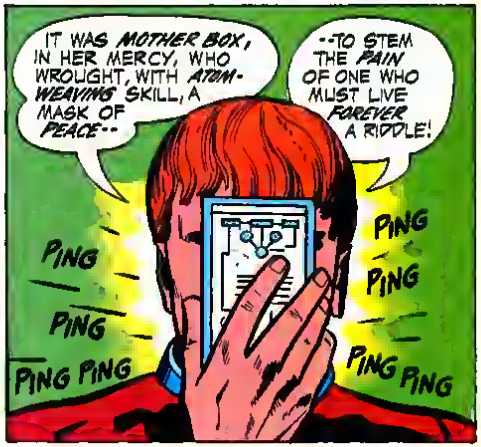
WE OF NEW GENESIS MUST HIDE AMONG MEN, AS DOES THE ENEMY FROM APOKOLIPS! WE ARE IN A SECRET WAR FOR ALL OF EARTH!

I'M NOT SO SCARED-- WITH YOU ON OUR SIDE, ORION!
I GO NOW, TO PUT ON THESE GARMENTS! DO NOT LEAVE UNTIL I EMERGE!
WE WON'T BUDGE WITHOUT YOUR GUIDANCE, ORION!
YES! I'VE SEEN THE APOKOLIPS CROWD--AND I'M FOR STAYING AS CLOSE TO YOU AS POSSIBLE!
A COSMIC BEING LIKE ORION, RIGHT HERE, IN MY APARTMENT! INCREDIBLE!
HE'S POSITIVELY BEAUTIFUL!--LIKE A LIVING STATUE MODELLED BY THE ANCIENT GREEKS!
YEAH--ONLY HE'S TOUGHER THAN GRANITE!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE APOKOLIPS IS, BUT IT'S A NIGHTMARE WORLD! THE FOUR OF US WERE TAKEN THERE AND MIGHT HAVE PERISHED THERE, IF NOT FOR ORION'S TIMELY ARRIVAL!
HE BROUGHT US BACK HERE, THROUGH WHAT HE CALLS A BOOM TUBE!
DO YOU WANT AN INSURANCE POLICY, LANZA?
BUT WE'RE STILL NOT SAFE! NOT EVEN HERE, ON EARTH!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, LINCOLN! WE'RE AT THE MERCY OF IMMENSELY POWERFUL FORCES!
I KNOW! AND IN THAT OTHER ROOM IS OUR ONLY REASON TO HOPE!
5

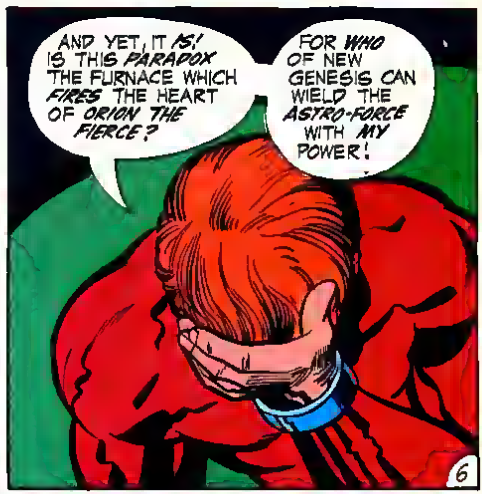

IN THAT OTHER ROOM, ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS, ORION BROODS UPON THE SCHEME OF THINGS!
TRAPPED--TRAPPED ON A WORLD WHERE HUMANS SWARM! HERE I MUST STAND AND GIVE BATTLE!
WERE THE FORCES OF APOKOLIPS TO ARRAY THEMSELVES ACROSS THE FACE OF THE INFINITE, I COULD WARM TO THE FIGHT!

HOWEVER, FIGHT I SHALL!-- THOUGH THIS FACE BE OF GENTLE NEW GENESIS--IT'S NOT THE TRUE FACE OF ORION!


MOTHER BOX, WHO IS PART OF MY ARMAMENT-- SHE KNOWS THE TRUE ORION!


IT WAS MOTHER BOX, IN HER MERCY, WHO WROUGHT, WITH ATOM-WEAVING SKILL, A MASK OF PEACE--
--TO STEM THE PAIN OF ONE WHO MUST LIVE FOREVER A RIDDLE!
PING
PING
PING
PING PING
PING
PING
PING PING

BUT I CAN FORCE MOTHER BOX TO RE-SHIFT ATOMS--UNDO THE MASK--AND LAY BARE THE TRUTH!
CAN THIS BE THE FACE OF ONE OF NEW GENESIS?
PING
PING
PING PING
PING
PING
PING
PING PING
PING

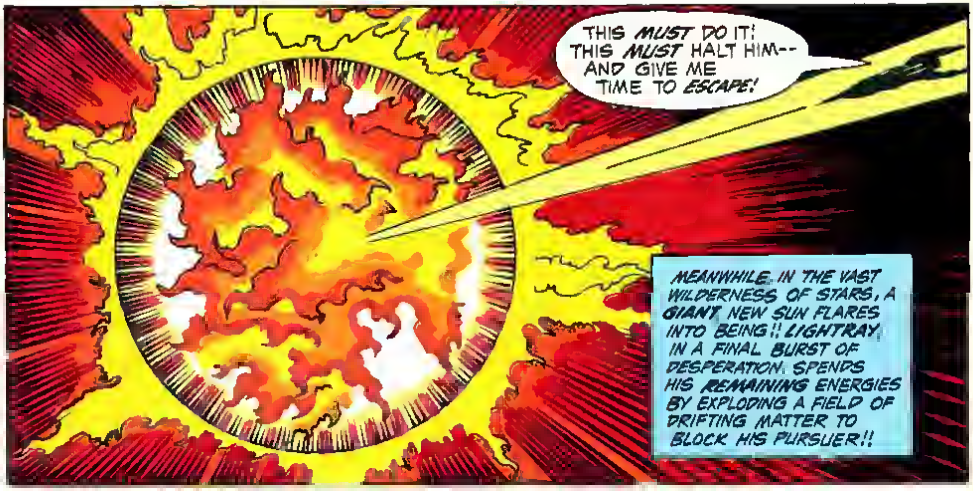

AND YET, IT IS! IS THIS PARADOX THE FURNACE WHICH FIRES THE HEART OF ORION THE FIERCE?
FOR WHO OF NEW GENESIS CAN WIELD THE ASTRO-FORCE WITH MY POWER!

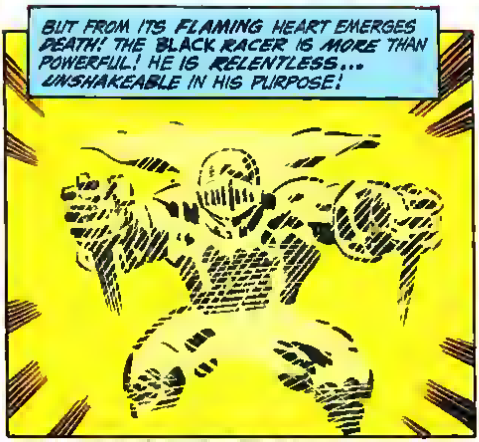
SOON, THE DOOR OF ORION'S ROOM OPENS. HE AGAIN WEARS THE FACE FASHIONED BY THE MIRACULOUS MOTHER BOX!!!
AND NOW, IN THE GARMENTS OF EARTH, I PLAY ANOTHER MASQUERADE!
THUS IT IS EVER WITH ORION!

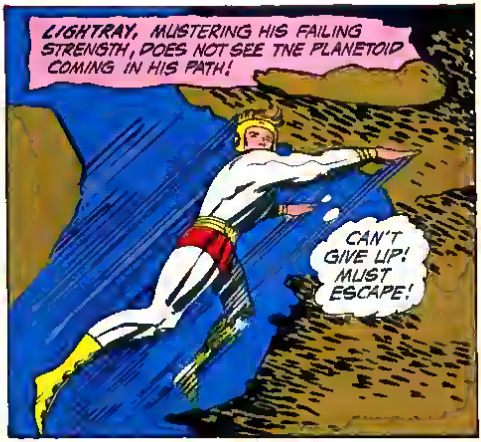
SEE, THEN! I AM AS ONE LIKE YOURSELVES!
ONLY MORE SO, ORION!
GROOVY! HE LOOKS LIKE HE PLAYS PRO FOOTBALL!

ENOUGH!' WE BEGIN OUR FIGHT! WE CARRY THE WAR TO THOSE WHO SERVE DARKSEID, RULER OF APOKOLIPS!
HIS MINIONS ARE EVERYWHERE! BUT WE BEGIN HERE--IN THIS CITY! WHERE YOU WERE ABDUCTED!
YOU MEAN WE'RE GOING AFTER OUR ABDUCTORS?

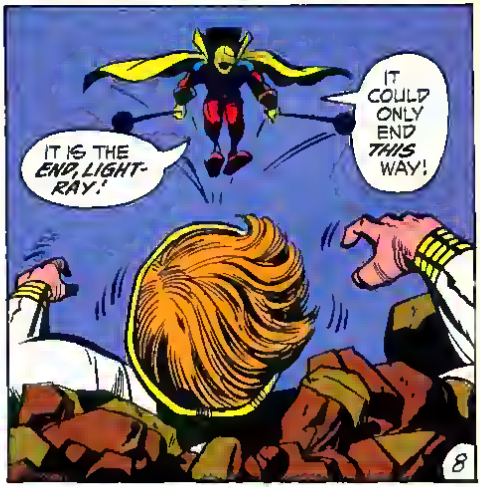
YES! THESE PAWNS OF APOKOLIPS--THOUGH THEY BE CREATURES OF EARTH, PLAY THE AWESOME GAME OF THE GODS!
LET THEM BEWARE OF THAT GAME!! THE WRATH OF THE GODS EXCEEDS A THOUSAND-FOLD THEIR GENEROSITY!


THIS MUST DO IT! THIS MUST HALT HIM-- AND GIVE ME TIME TO ESCAPE!
MEANWHILE, IN THE VAST WILDERNESS OF STARS, A GIANT NEW SUN FLARES INTO BEING!! LIGHTRAY, IN A FINAL BURST OF DESPERATION, SPENDS HIS REMAINING ENERGIES BY EXPLODING A FIELD OF DRIFTING MATTER TO BLOCK HIS PURSUER!!


BUT FROM ITS FLAMING HEART EMERGES DEATH! THE BLACK RACER IS MORE THAN POWERFUL! HE IS RELENTLESS... UNSHAKEABLE IN HIS PURPOSE!


LIGHTRAY, MUSTERING HIS FAILING STRENGTH, DOES NOT SEE THE PLANETOID COMING IN HIS PATH!
CAN'T GIVE UP! MUST ESCAPE!

HE STRIKES ITS HARSH SURFACE WITH DAMAGING EFFECT!
BLAAAMM

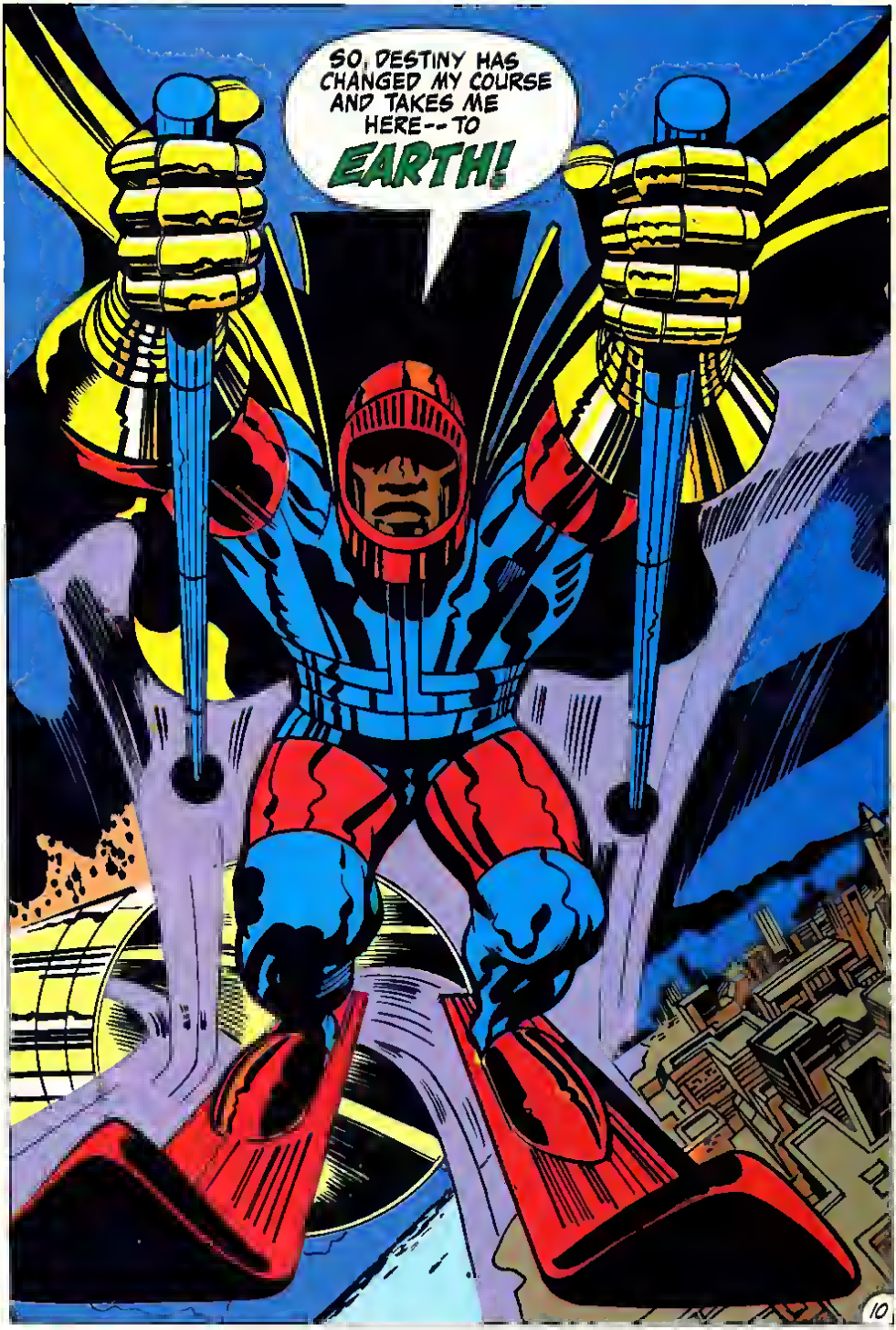

IT IS THE END, LIGHT-RAY!
IT COULD ONLY END THIS WAY!

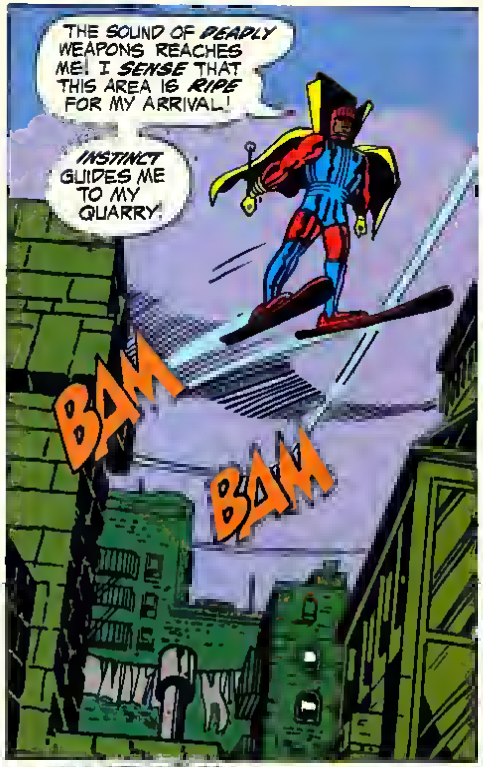
SUDDENLY, A RUMBLE OF SOUND LIKE THE CRACK OF DOOM ERUPTS ABOUT LIGHT-RAY! A BOOM TUBE APPEARS IN MID-AIR AND SWALLOWS THE BLACK RACER!
BOOM

THEN IT QUICKLY FADES--REVEALING TO AN ASTONISHED LIGHTRAY THE PRESENCE OF HIS RESCUER--METRON OF NEW GENESIS!
FEAR NO MORE, LIGHTRAY! THE RACER IS GONE!

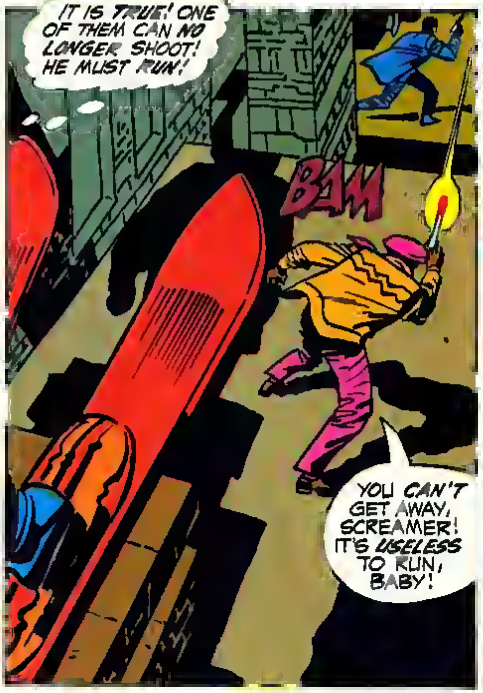
I MERELY DEFLECTED HIS FLIGHT ELSEWHERE. YOU COULD HAVE DONE THE SAME, LIGHTRAY! YOU MUST LEARN TO THINK MORE COOLLY!
HOWEVER, A BRUSH WITH THE BLACK RACER IS A NUMBLING EXPERIENCE AT BEST!

IN MY MOBIUS CHAIR I MASTER TIME! SPACE! INFINITY! LUCKILY FOR YOU--I AM EVERYWHERE WHEN NEEDED.
THE BLACK RACER--WHERE IS HE NOW? WHERE HAS THE BOOM TUBE TAKEN HIM?

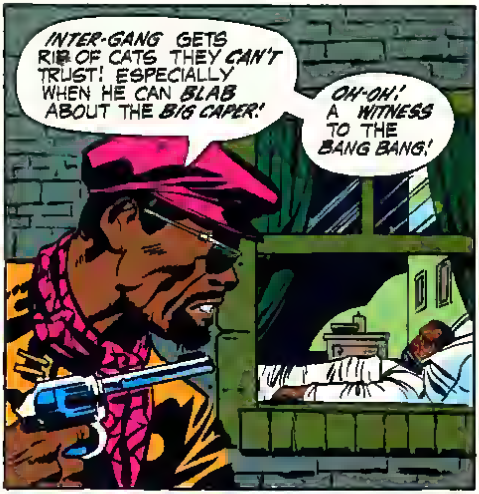

SO, DESTINY HAS CHANGED MY COURSE AND TAKES ME HERE--TO EARTH!


THE SOUND OF DEADLY WEAPONS REACHES ME! I SENSE THAT THIS AREA IS RIPE FOR MY ARRIVAL!
INSTINCT GUIDES ME TO MY QUARRY.
BAM
BAM

THERE, BELOW--A PLACE OF BLACK MEN! THOSE WHO FIGHT TO LIVE--OTHERS WHO RISK MY PRESENCE!
I'VE GOT YOU, SCREAMER! YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF AMMO!
BAM
BAM

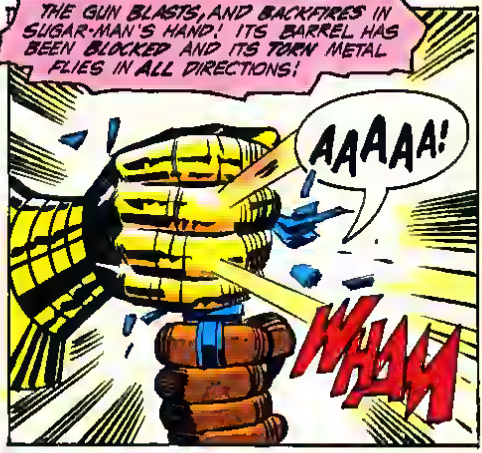

IT IS TRUE! ONE OF THEM CAN NO LONGER SHOOT! HE MUST RUN!
BAM
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY, SCREAMER! IT'S USELESS TO RUN, BABY!

AAA AAA
POW
POW
YOUR LAST SCREAM WON'T BE TO THE LAW!

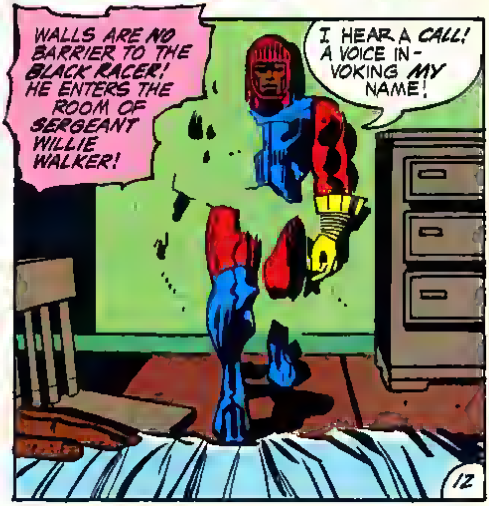

INTER-GANG GETS RID OF CATS THEY CAN'T TRUST! ESPECIALLY WHEN HE CAN BLAB ABOUT THE BIG CAPER!
OH-OH! A WITNESS TO THE BANG BANG!

HEY! I KNOW YOU! SERGEANT WILLIE WALKER! BIG VIET NAM HERO! CAN'T WALK, TALK--OR EVEN FEED HIMSELF!
LOTSA MEDALS-- BUT ONE BIG, BAD WOUND, EH, WILLIE?

WELL, SUGAR-MAN IS GONNA HELP YOU, WILLIE!
SUGAR-MAN IS GONNA BLOT OUT ALL THAT MISERY INSIDE YOU--IT'LL JUST TAKE-- ONE SQUEEZE--


THE GUN BLASTS, AND BACKFIRES IN SUGAR-MAN'S HAND! ITS BARREL HAS BEEN BLOCKED AND ITS TORN METAL FLIES IN ALL DIRECTIONS!
AAAAA!
WHAM

MY FACE! I'M HIT! I'M HIT!
GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!


WALLS ARE NO BARRIER TO THE BLACK RACER! HE ENTERS THE ROOM OF SERGEANT WILLIE WALKER!
I HEAR A CALL! A VOICE IN-VOKING MY NAME!

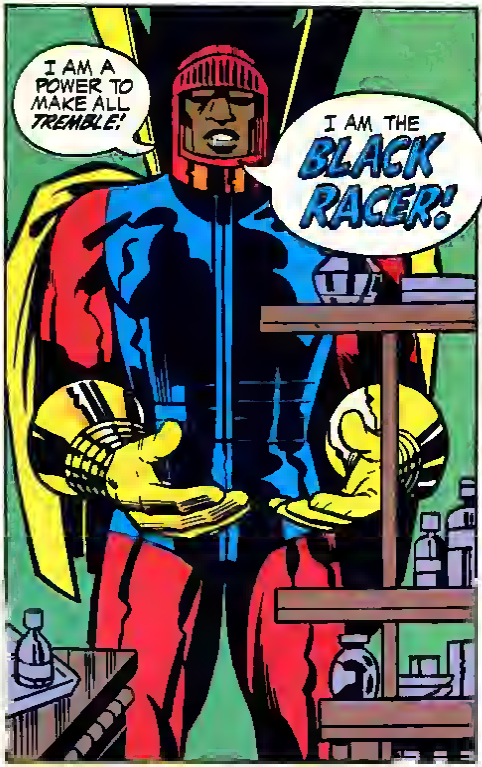
THE VOICE IS YOURS! I CAN HEAR IT! THIS IS WHY DESTINY HAS LED ME HERE!
I UNDERSTAND NOW! AND EVEN I MUST DO DESTINY'S BIDDING! FOR ONE OF YOUR VALUE, THE BLACK RACER MUST BOW!

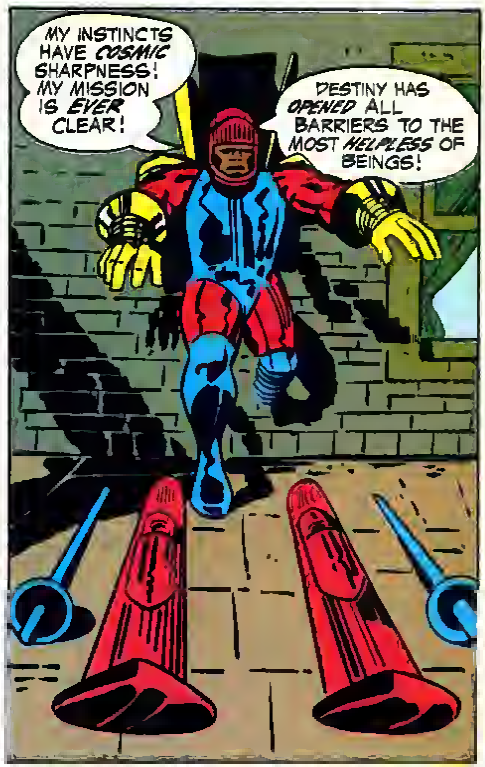
COME! TAKE MY HAND!
YOU WILL NOT LIVE--YOU WILL DIE! BUT YOU WILL HAVE WHAT YOU HAVE EARNED--THE FREEDOM OF A GREAT POWER!

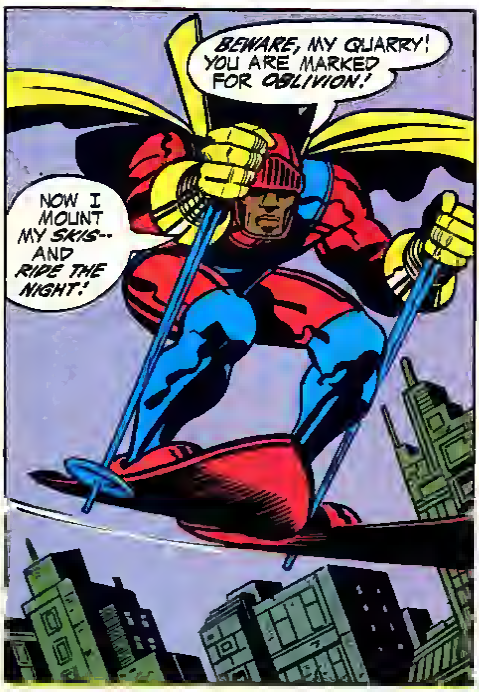
FEAR NOT! SEE? YOUR HAND MOVES! YEA--EVEN AS IT REACHES OUT--THE REST OF YOUR BODY STIRS TO FOLLOW!
WHA--?

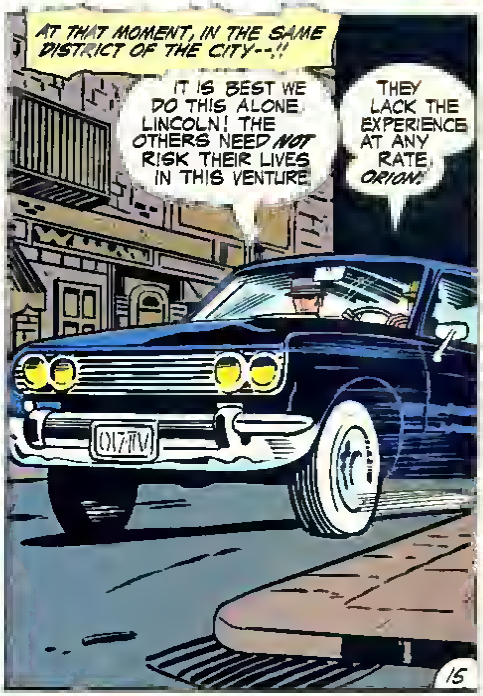
I CAN MOVE! I-I CAN MOVE!--A-AND SPEAK! I CAN SPEAK--
WH-WHO ARE YOU?
IN YOUR DESPAIR--YOU SUMMONED ME!

WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER ME? I'M SCARED! MORE SCARED THAN I EVER WAS IN COMBAT!
GOOD LORD! I'M STANDING! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
WHAT AM I SAYING! IT'S HAPPENED! I'M WHOLE! I'M STRONG! I'M NO LONGER HALF-ALIVE!
WILLIE WALKER NO LONGER NEEDS THIS AID!
WHA--?
THE ARMORED STRANGER HAS COLLAPSED! HE LIES MOTIONLESS ON THE FLOOR!
THERE ARE SO MANY QUESTIONS I HAVE TO ASK HIM!
DUST! THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS ARMOR--BUT DUST!
HE'S GONE!
BUT THE MEANING OF THIS, NOW, BEGINS TO DAWN ON ME--
I'M CHANGING-- I-I AM MORE THAN WILLIE WALKER!
14


I AM A POWER TO MAKE ALL TREMBLE!
I AM THE BLACK RACER!


MY INSTINCTS HAVE COSMIC SHARPNESS! MY MISSION IS EVER CLEAR!
DESTINY HAS OPENED ALL BARRIERS TO THE MOST HELPLESS OF BEINGS!

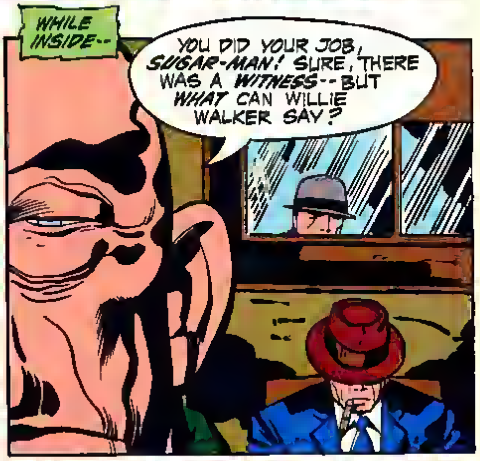

BEWARE, MY QUARRY! YOU ARE MARKED FOR OBLIVION!
NOW I MOUNT MY SKIS-- AND RIDE THE NIGHT!


AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE SAME DISTRICT OF THE CITY--!!
IT IS BEST WE DO THIS ALONE, LINCOLN! THE OTHERS NEED NOT RISK THEIR LIVES IN THIS VENTURE.
THEY LACK THE EXPERIENCE AT ANY RATE, ORION!

AS A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR, YOUR WORK IS APPROPRIATE FOR THIS MISSION!
SO IS YOUR NAME, O'RYAN!

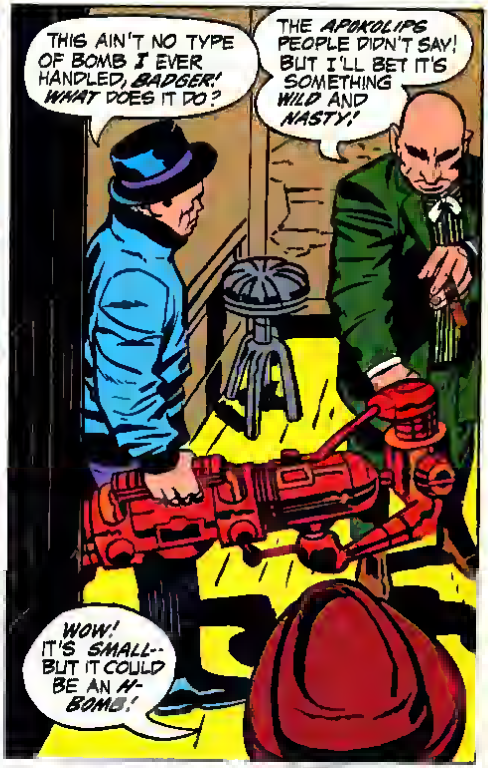
I CARRY MOTHER BOX UPON ME! SHE SAYS OUR TARGET IS HERE!
YES--I RECALL THIS PLACE! I RECALL BEING CARRIED HERE BEFORE I BLACKED OUT!

HOLD IT! I HEAR VOICES! THERE'S A WINDOW HERE! NOW FOR A CAUTIOUS LOOK!
IT IS THEM! MOTHER BOX PINGS WILDLY BENEATH MY JACKET!


WHILE INSIDE--
YOU DID YOUR JOB, SUGAR-MAN! SURE, THERE WAS A WITNESS--BUT WHAT CAN WILLIE WALKER SAY?

THE KID'S A LIVING CLAM! THEY'LL GET NOTHING OUTTA HIM! NOT IN TIME TO STOP WHAT WE GOTTA DO!
SORRY ABOUT THE ACCIDENT!
ACCIDENT, HELL! I SAW A HAND, I TELL YOU! IT WAS LIKE THE HAND OF DEATH CLOSING OVER THE BARREL OF MY GUN!
EASY-- EASY!
THEN-- BOOM!

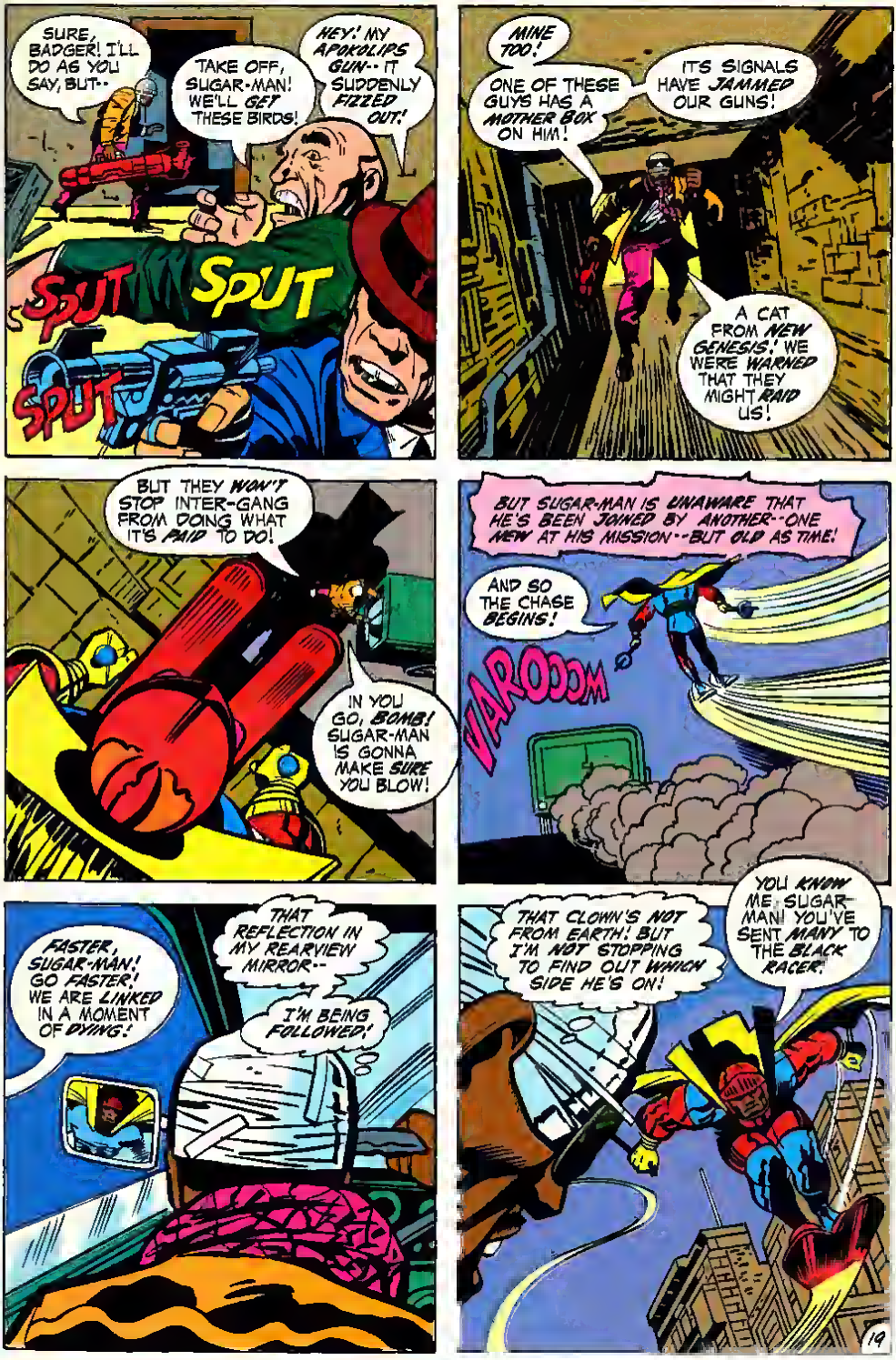
THERE WAS SOMEONE THERE, STANDING IN THE DARKNESS! I COULDN'T SEE HIM--BUT I'LL KNOW WHEN I FIND HIM AGAIN!
YAAA--SHUT UP! INTER-GANG MUST CARRY OUT WHAT IT'S PAID TO DO! BRING IN THE BOMB!

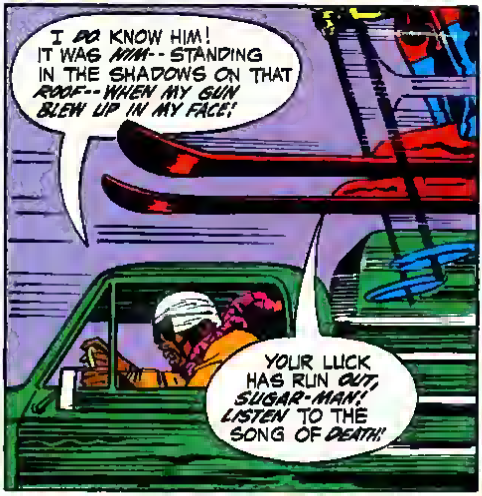

THIS AIN'T NO TYPE OF BOMB I EVER HANDLED, BADGER! WHAT DOES IT DO?
THE APOKOLIPS PEOPLE DIDN'T SAY! BUT I'LL BET IT'S SOMETHING WILD AND NASTY!
WOW! IT'S SMALL--BUT IT COULD BE AN H-BOMB!

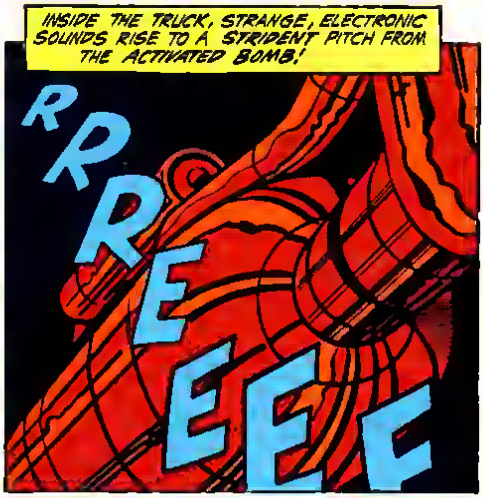
I HOPE WE GOT GUARANTEES NOT TO GET CAUGHT WHEN IT GOES OFF, EH, BADGER?
YEAH! IT'S ALL IN THE GETAWAY PLAN!
THERE! I TURN THIS KEY--AND NOW THE BOMB IS ACTIVATED! AND READY TO PLANT!

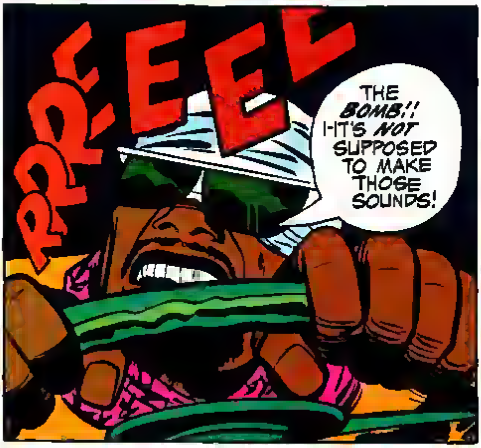
HEAR THAT? IT'S OUR CUE, O'RYAN! WE'VE GOT TO CHANCE DIRECT ACTION!
THEY'LL BE EXPECTING A GUN SUCH AS YOURS! BUT--NOT--THIS!

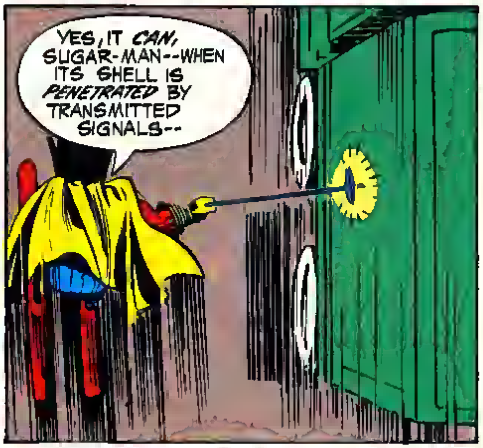
WITH THE SAVAGE CRY OF A WARRIOR GIVING BATTLE, FIERCE ORION LITERALLY SMASHES THROUGH CONCRETE AND METAL WALLS TO REACH HIS FOES!
ORION! YOU'VE DEMOLISHED THIS PLACE!
TO YOUR KNEES! IT IS ORION OF NEW GENESIS!
KAARAASHH
BAM
WE'VE BEEN WARNED ABOUT HIM! GET THOSE SPECIAL GUNS!
WHAT IN BLAZES? HELP!
SO! YOU HAVE APOKOLIPS WEAPONS!
TZWOM
STASH THAT PEA-SHOOTER, SUGAR-MAN!
TAKE THE BOMB! PLANT IT WHERE THE APOKOLIPS CROWD DESIGNATED!
OKAY, BADGER! BUT HOLD THIS CAT WHILE I GET AWAY!


SURE, BADGER! I'LL DO AS YOU SAY, BUT--
TAKE OFF, SUGAR-MAN! WE'LL GET THESE BIRDS!
HEY! MY APOKOLIPS GUN-- IT SUDDENLY FIZZED OUT!
SPUT
SPUT
SPUT
MINE TOO!
ONE OF THESE GUYS HAS A MOTHER BOX ON HIM!
ITS SIGNALS HAVE JAMMED OUR GUNS!
A CAT FROM NEW GENESIS! WE WERE WARNED THAT THEY MIGHT RAID US!
BUT THEY WON'T STOP INTER-GANG FROM DOING WHAT IT'S PAID TO DO!
IN YOU GO, BOMB! SUGAR-MAN IS GONNA MAKE SURE YOU BLOW!
BUT SUGAR-MAN IS UNAWARE THAT HE'S BEEN JOINED BY ANOTHER--ONE NEW AT HIS MISSION--BUT OLD AS TIME!
AND SO THE CHASE BEGINS!
VAROOOM
FASTER, SUGAR-MAN! GO FASTER! WE ARE LINKED IN A MOMENT OF DYING!
THAT REFLECTION IN MY REARVIEW MIRROR--
I'M BEING FOLLOWED!
THAT CLOWN'S NOT FROM EARTH! BUT I'M NOT STOPPING TO FIND OUT WHICH SIDE HE'S ON!
YOU KNOW ME, SUGAR-MAN! YOU'VE SENT MANY TO THE BLACK RACER!


I DO KNOW HIM! IT WAS HIM--STANDING IN THE SHADOWS ON THAT ROOF--WHEN MY GUN BLEW UP IN MY FACE!
YOUR LUCK HAS RUN OUT, SUGAR-MAN! LISTEN TO THE SONG OF DEATH!


INSIDE THE TRUCK, STRANGE, ELECTRONIC SOUNDS RISE TO A STRIDENT PITCH FROM THE ACTIVATED BOMB!
RRREEEE


RRREEEE
THE BOMB!! IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO MAKE THOSE SOUNDS!


YES, IT CAN, SUGAR-MAN--WHEN ITS SHELL IS PENETRATED BY TRANSMITTED SIGNALS--

THEY ENTER THE TRUCK--WITHOUT RESISTANCE--AS DOES MY SKI POLE--
THEN, AS THE SIGNALS REACH THE MECHANIZED HEART OF THE BOMB--
RRRREEEEE

SUDDENLY, AS THE SKI POLE TOUCHES THE BOMB...
THEY TRIGGER ITS ANTI-GRAVITY CIRCUITS!
FAREWELL, SUGAR-MAN!
NO! NO! NO!

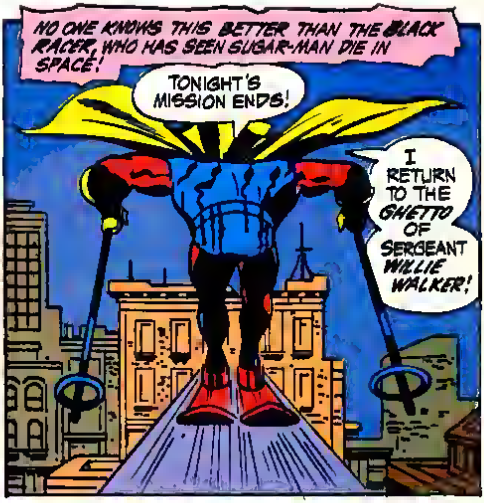
AT THAT MOMENT, WHERE SUGAR-MAN'S COMPANIONS ARE BEING MOPPED UP!
YOU CATS COOLED US, BUT NOT OUR BOMB! BY NOW, IT'S BEING CLAMPED ON THE COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING ACROSS TOWN!!
WE WERE TOO LATE TO STOP YOUR MAN FROM ESCAPING WITH THE BOMB-- BUT PERHAPS..
DON'T WORRY, LINCOLN! MOTHER BOX HAS INTERCEPTED THE BOMB IN TRANSIT AND HAS SENT IT TOWARD SPACE!

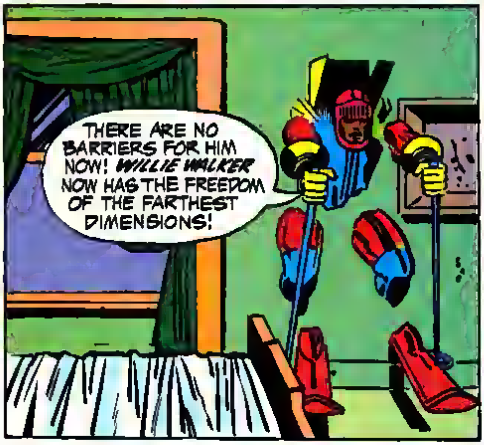
RRREEEEEEEEE
ZZSSHH
NOW, THE VEHICLE CARRYING THE BOMB IS HIGH ENOUGH TO DESTRUCT THERE! MOTHER BOX SENDS OUT HER DEATH SIGNAL!

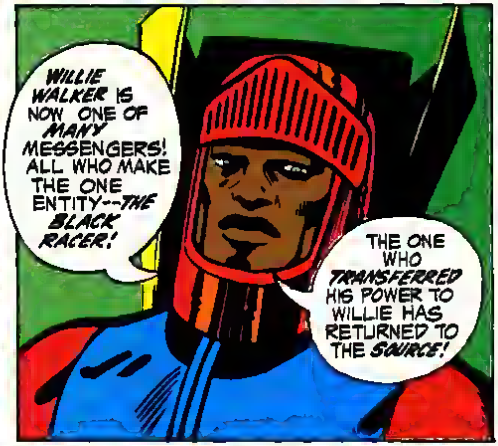
MOTHER BOX IS A LITTLE WONDER! SHE JAMMED THE GANG'S GUNS--AND NOW SHE'S BLOWN UP A BIGGER MENACE! SHE'S GREAT TO HAVE AROUND!
DISTANCE MEANS NOTHING TO MOTHER BOX! SHE CAN COMBAT EVIL WHEREVER IT MAY BE!

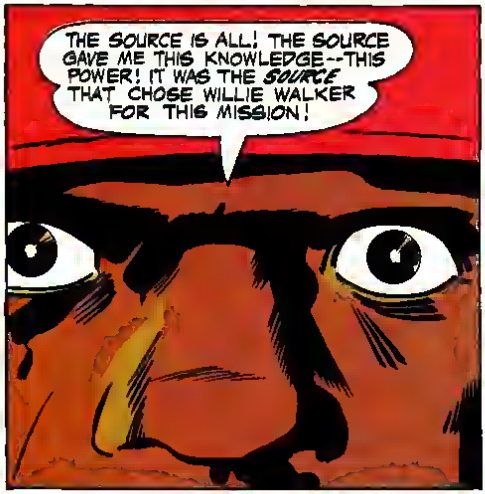
I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THAT BOMB! IT WOULD HAVE MELTED EVERY BIT OF COMMUNICATION METAL WITHIN A RADIUS OF THOUSANDS OF MILES--
NO TELEPHONES-- NO TELEVISION-- NOT EVEN RADIOS OR TELEGRAPH! IT WOULD HAVE MEANT CHAOS!
NAILING OUR UNIT WON'T STOP INTER-GANG!

WE'VE MADE A GOOD START, EH, O'RYAN? NOW TO CALL THE POLICE AND DROP THIS LITTLE PACKAGE IN THEIR LAP!
WE'LL DELIVER THEM ALL, EXCEPT THE MAN WHO TOOK THE BOMB! I'M AFRAID HE'LL NEVER BE FOUND!


NO ONE KNOWS THIS BETTER THAN THE BLACK RACER, WHO HAS SEEN SUGAR-MAN DIE IN SPACE!
TONIGHT'S MISSION ENDS!
I RETURN TO THE GHETTO OF SERGEANT WILLIE WALKER!


THERE ARE NO BARRIERS FOR HIM NOW! WILLIE WALKER NOW HAS THE FREEDOM OF THE FARTHEST DIMENSIONS!


WILLIE WALKER IS NOW ONE OF MANY MESSENGERS! ALL WHO MAKE THE ONE ENTITY--THE BLACK RACER!
THE ONE WHO TRANSFERRED HIS POWER TO WILLIE HAS RETURNED TO THE SOURCE!


THE SOURCE IS ALL! THE SOURCE GAVE ME THIS KNOWLEDGE--THIS POWER! IT WAS THE SOURCE THAT CHOSE WILLIE WALKER FOR THIS MISSION!

I MUST STILL DO ITS BIDDING! I RETURN AS WILLIE WALKER!
I TOUCH MY HELMET AND VANISH AS I AM!

MOMENTS LATER, THE TWO PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAKEN CARE OF WILLIE WALKER ENTER THE ROOM-- HIS SISTER VERNA AND HER HUSBAND, RAY JOHNSON...
WILLIE! WILLIE!
OH, RAY-- WE SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE OUT AND LEFT HIM ALONE!
WILLIE'S OKAY!-- I MEAN--AS WELL AS HE COULD BE! BESIDES, WE ARRANGED FOR THE NEIGHBORS TO CHECK ON HIM!
THEY WERE NO HELP! THEY WERE BUSY WITH ALL THAT TROUBLE TONIGHT!
WE CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN, RAY! WE CAN'T LEAVE WILLIE ALONE THIS WAY!
WELL, WHO COULD FOREGEE THAT THEY WERE GONNA FIND A DEAD HOODLUM OUTSIDE THIS BUILDING?
WILLIE WAS HERE! HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIT BY A STRAY BULLET! AND HE CAN'T MOVE, OR SHOUT FOR HELP!
YES, WILLIE MUST HAVE HEARD THE SHOTS! BUT I'M SURE HE DIDN'T GET INVOLVED FOR BETTER REASONS THAN OUR NEIGHBORS!
WELL, THEY'RE ALL EXCITED, NOW! THE POLICE ARE ON THE WAY!
POOR WILLIE! WHAT MUST HE BE THINKING?
WILLIE WALKER'S EYES GROW WIDE! HE IS AWARE! HE NOW KNOWS HIS NEXT QUARRY! WHO IS IT? HIM?-- HER?-- YOU?
DON'T RUN FOR THE EXITS! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE BLACK RACER!
IF THERE IS STILL TIME, STAY AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT EXCITING EPISODE! WE'RE GOING TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT
O'RYAN'S GANG and the DEEP SIX!
23

IN THE REALM OF DARKSEID OF APOKOLIPS, WHERE ALL THINGS SERVE THE CAUSE OF DESTRUCTION, THERE IS NONE SO SAVAGE AS
KALIBAK THE CRUEL!
HIS IS A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE WITH THE NEW GODS FOR THE FATE OF MANKIND!
THIS IS A FACE TO FEAR! SOMEDAY, KALIBAK, YOU MAY SUPPLANT DARKSEID HIMSELF!

THERE ARE NO BARRIERS TO THE MOBIUS CHAIR OF METRON, THE KNOWLEDGE SEEKER OF NEW GENESIS! NO WORLD OR UNIVERSE SEEMS UNREACHABLE! AND ON ONE SUCH DISTANT PLACE, HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY A YOUNG SCHOLAR...
WE ARE SAFE IN THE MOBIUS CHAIR, ESAK! THEY CAN NEVER MATCH ITS SPEED. YOU MAY STUDY THEM AT YOUR EASE!
LIFE ON THIS PRIMITIVE PLANET IS SAVAGE AND THREATENING, METRON. I-I AM AFRAID--

THOSE CREATURES BELOW BEAR THE IMAGE OF MAN! EVEN SO, THEY ATTACK WITH THE FEROCITY OF THE BEAST!!
THIS PLANET IS TEEMING WITH HOSTILE LIFE! THIS IS THEIR TO-DAY'S HUNT FOR FOOD AND GRATIFICATION!
ONE DAY, WHEN THEIR BELLIES ARE FULL, THEY WILL LOOK UP AND SEE US! THEN THEY WILL THINK AND REASON!

THOSE CREATURES BELOW BEAR THE IMAGE OF MAN! EVEN SO, THEY ATTACK WITH THE FEROCITY OF THE BEASTS!
THIS PLANET IS YOUNG AND HOSTILE, ESAK! THIS IS THEIR TIME TO FIGHT FOR FOOD AND SHELTER!

ONE DAY, WHEN THEIR BELLIES ARE FULL, THEY WILL LOOK UP AND SEE US! THEN THEY WILL THINK AND *DREAM*!

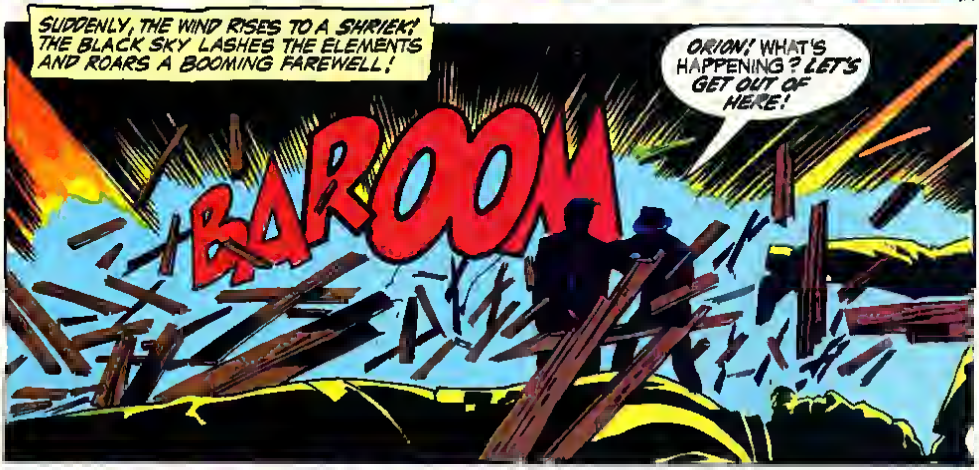
NOW, WE SHALL TAKE OUR LEAVE! WHEN WE RETURN AGAIN, THERE WILL BE CHANGE!
THAT WILL BE A MILLENNIUM TO THEM! TIME TO THEM IS NOT AS TIME TO US--IS IT?
TELL ME, METRON! ARE WE TRULY BEYOND TIME?-- ARE WE BEYOND DEATH?
MY SENSORS INDICATE THERE IS AN ANSWER IN NEW GENESIS!
THE HIDDEN WONDERS OF THE MOBIUS CHAIR SPRING TO LIFE! IT FADES WITH ITS OCCUPANTS AND REAPPEARS IMMEDIATELY IN NEW GENESIS!
HAIL, HIGH-FATHER! I RETURN WITH YOUNG ESAK FROM HIS STUDIES TO CONFIRM A SEVERE VIBRATION FROM NEW GENESIS!
IT SHOULDN'T CONCERN YOU, COLD ONE! THE WAR TO KEEP APOKOLIPS FROM EARTH GOES BADLY! ONE OF US HAS FALLEN!
4

AND ON EARTH, THE BATTLE GROWS HOTTER FOR THE
NEW GODS!
BUT THE STRANGEST, MOST TERRIFYING CONFRONTATION IS YET TO COME--BETWEEN THE--
O'RYAN GANG and the DEEPSIX
STAND BACK, MISTER! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM!
SEAGRIN! SEAGRIN!
EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY JACK KIRBY
AND DIPPED WITH GRAPHIC STYLE IN INK BY VINCE COLLETTA

LET HIM THROUGH, OFFICER! HE CAN IDENTIFY THE DECEASED! WE'RE PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS!
THAT'S RIGHT! HIS NAME IS LINCOLN-- MINE IS ORION!
HOW ABOUT THE NAME OF THE DECEASED, O'RYAN! YOU SAY YOU KNOW HIM?
HIS NAME WAS SEA GRIN! HE WAS A GENTLE WARRIOR!
HE LOVED THE DEEPS AND ALL LIFE IN IT! IT WAS HIS ELEMENT! WITHIN IT, HE FOUND HARMONY IN LIVING! AND THIS IS THE END OF IT! SOMEWHERE IN THESE WATERS HE FOUGHT AND DIED!
HOW CAN YOU TELL? WE COULDN'T FIND ANY MARKS OF VIOLENCE ON HIM!
HIS ENEMIES WERE NOT OF THE COMMON VARIETY, OFFICER! THE MOTHER BOX IN HIS BELT--EVEN SHE RESTS UNTOUCHED!
THE WHAT!? A MOTHER BOX?

IT'S A SORT OF "INSIDE" THING, OFFICER! BETWEEN FRIENDS! MY PARTNER IS A BIT SHAKEN UP--!
NOT EVEN MOTHER BOX COULD PROTECT HIM! THE HIDDEN ENEMY HAS FOUND A WAY TO THWART HER!

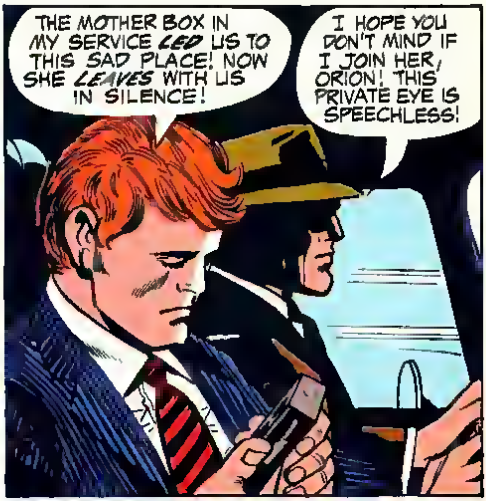
NOW SHE CAN DO NOTHING MORE BUT PERFORM HER LAST SERVICE FOR SEAGRIN! SHE TAKES HIM TO-- THE SOURCE!
CRAK

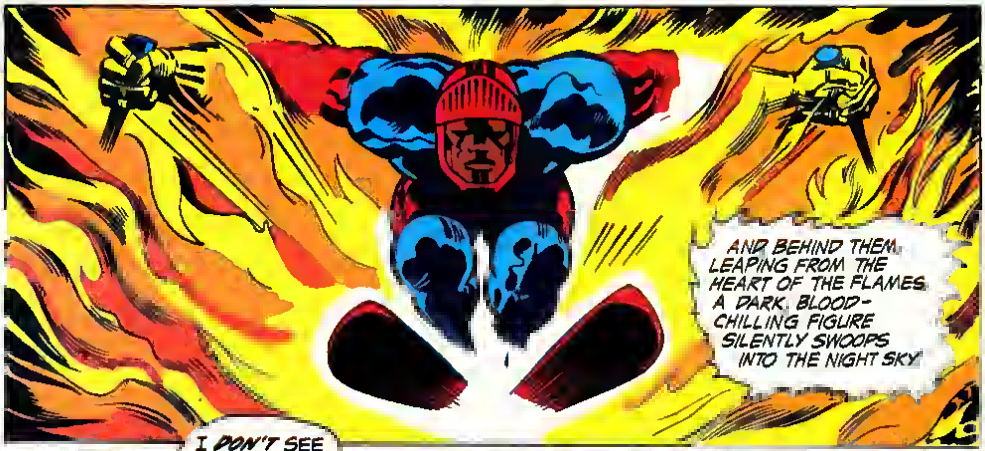

SUDDENLY, THE WIND RISES TO A SHRIEK! THE BLACK SKY LASHES THE ELEMENTS AND ROARS A BOOMING FAREWELL!
ORION! WHAT'S HAPPENING? LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
BAROOM

LOOK OUT! THE WHOLE PIER IS GOING UP!
KRASSHH

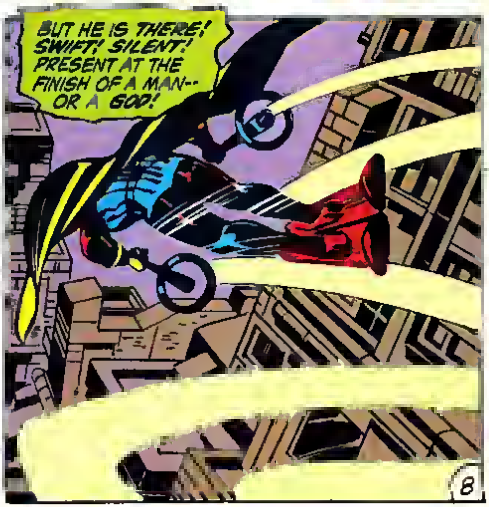
RIDE THE TEMPEST, SEAGRIN! ENTER THE COSMIC FIRE! THE SOURCE WILL TAKE YOU AS A WARRIOR WHO HAS GIVEN ALL!

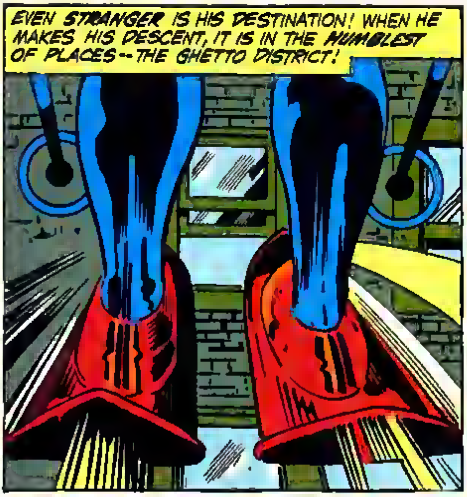
THE FLAMES ARE NOT OF EARTH! IN A MOMENT THEY WILL VANISH-- WITH SEAGRIN!

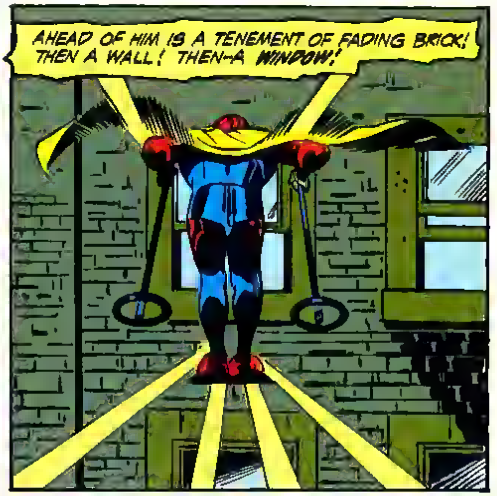

THE MOTHER BOX IN MY SERVICE LED US TO THIS SAD PLACE! NOW SHE LEAVES WITH US IN SILENCE!
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I JOIN HER, ORION! THIS PRIVATE EYE IS SPEECHLESS!

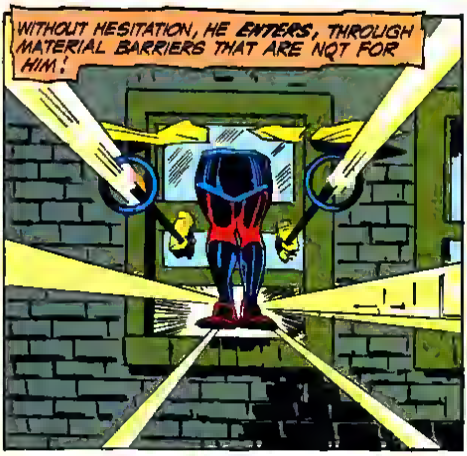

AND BEHIND THEM, LEAPING FROM THE HEART OF THE FLAMES, A DARK, BLOOD-CHILLING FIGURE SILENTLY SWOOPS INTO THE NIGHT SKY!

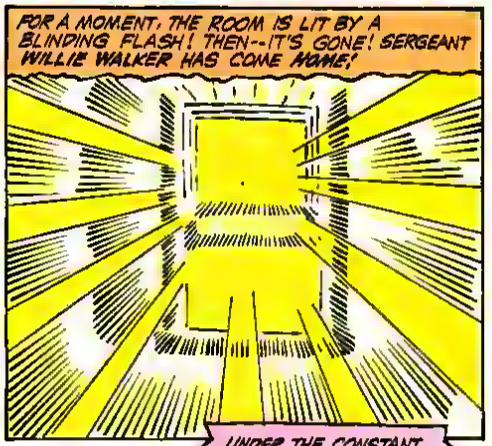
CASEY! LOOK! UP THERE! DO YOU SEE IT?
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING BUT THAT FIRE! COUGH! COUGH!


BUT HE IS THERE! SWIFT! SILENT! PRESENT AT THE FINISH OF A MAN-- OR A GOD!


EVEN STRANGER IS HIS DESTINATION! WHEN HE MAKES HIS DESCENT, IT IS IN THE HUMBLEST OF PLACES--THE GHETTO DISTRICT!

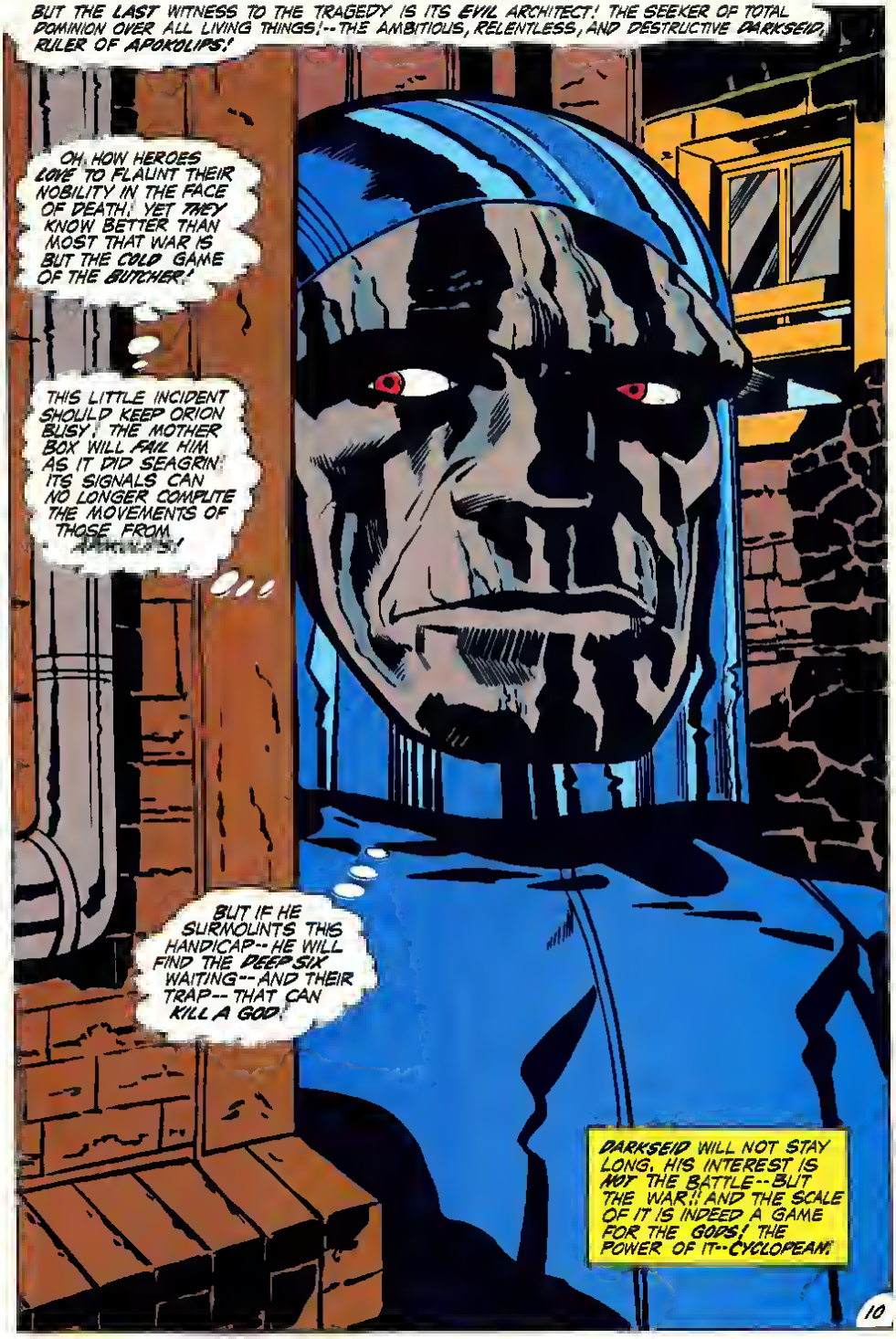

AHEAD OF HIM IS A TENEMENT OF FADING BRICK! THEN A WALL! THEN--A WINDOW!


WITHOUT HESITATION, HE ENTERS, THROUGH MATERIAL BARRIERS THAT ARE NOT FOR HIM!


FOR A MOMENT, THE ROOM IS LIT BY A BLINDING FLASH! THEN--IT'S GONE! SERGEANT WILLIE WALKER HAS COME HOME!

WHERE BUT IN THE HANDS OF A PARAPLEGIC, MADE HELPLESS BY WAR, WOULD A WANDERING, GOD-LIKE BEING HAVE PLACED THE MOST AWESOME POWER?
WILLIE! WILLIE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? HOW DID THESE FUMES GET IN THIS ROOM? I'VE TAKEN ALL PRECAUTION AGAINST FIRE!

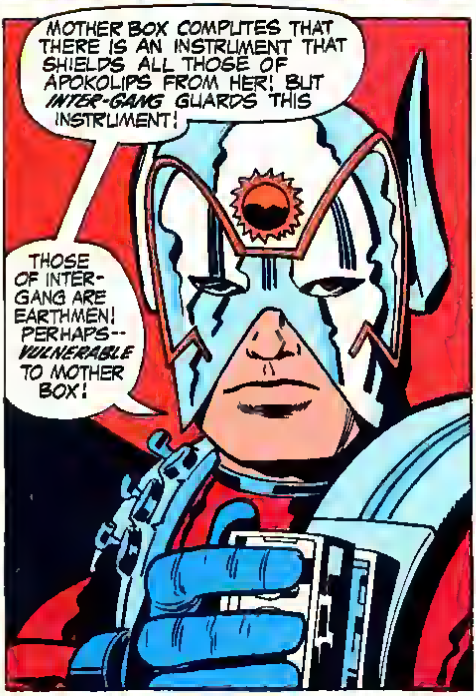
UNDER THE CONSTANT CARE OF HIS SISTER AND HER HUSBAND, WHO WOULD SUSPECT THAT SERGEANT WILLIE WALKER IS THE BLACK RACER, MESSENGER OF DEATH!?
BUT HOW COULD THIS BE?


BUT THE LAST WITNESS TO THE TRAGEDY IS ITS EVIL ARCHITECT! THE SEEKER OF TOTAL DOMINION OVER ALL LIVING THINGS!--THE AMBITIOUS, RELENTLESS, AND DESTRUCTIVE DARKSEID, RULER OF APOKOLIPS!
OH, HOW HEROES LOVE TO FLAUNT THEIR NOBILITY IN THE FACE OF DEATH! YET THEY KNOW BETTER THAN MOST THAT WAR IS BUT THE COLD GAME OF THE BUTCHER!
THIS LITTLE INCIDENT SHOULD KEEP ORION BUSY! THE MOTHER BOX WILL FAIL HIM AS IT DID SEAGRIN! ITS SIGNALS CAN NO LONGER COMPLETE THE MOVEMENTS OF THOSE FROM APOKOLIPS!
BUT IF HE SURMOUNTS THIS HANDICAP--HE WILL FIND THE DEEP SIX WAITING--AND THEIR TRAP--THAT CAN KILL A GOD!
DARKSEID WILL NOT STAY LONG. HIS INTEREST IS NOT THE BATTLE--BUT THE WAR!! AND THE SCALE OF IT IS INDEED A GAME FOR THE GODS! THE POWER OF IT--CYCLOPEAN!

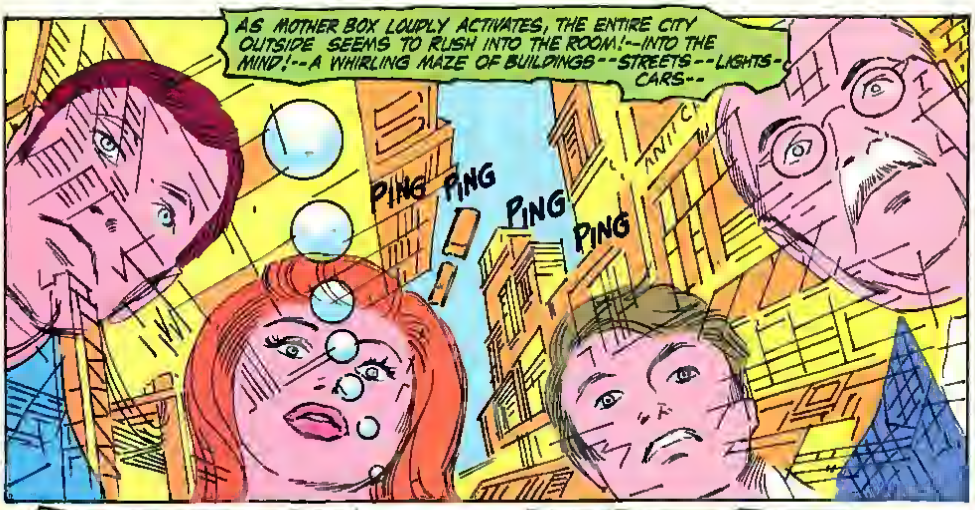
LATER, IN THE APARTMENT OF DAVE LINCOLN, A MEETING IS HELD!
I TELL YOU, I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES! WE'RE IN A WAR! IT'S HIDDEN--BUT VERY REAL!
B-BUT WHY US? WE'RE JUST ORDINARY PEOPLE!
OH, YEAH? HOW MANY JUST PLAIN FOLKS HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED TO A WEIRD WORLD LIKE APOKOLIPS!
ORION GOT US BACK HERE! WE OWE HIM THAT!
REMEMBER THIS CREW--FROM ISSUES #1-2-3--?
WE OWE HIM THAT, MISTER LANZA! SUCH AS WE ARE--WE MAY HAVE TO TACKLE SUPER-BEINGS!
BUT I'M VICTOR LANZA! AN INSURANCE EXECUTIVE! A FAMILY MAN! MY WIFE MAKES ME CARRY AN UMBRELLA IN CASE IT RAINS!
AND NOW THIS! NEW GENESIS! APOKOLIPS! AND THINGS THAT WOULD SCARE JOHN WAYNE!
WHAT ABOUT IT, LINCOLN? I'M CLAUDIA SHANE, SIMPLE BUT WORRIED SECRETARY! WHAT AM I INVOLVED IN THIS TIME?--
BEATS ME! IT'S STILL ORION'S PLAY!
AND ME, YOUNG BUT COOL HARVEY LOCK-MAN!
YOU WILL NOW THINK OF MY NAME ONLY IN ITS EARTH TERM--O'RYAN! THIS IS IMPORTANT!
EASY ENOUGH! THEY'RE PRO-NOUNCED ALIKE!
THAT'S NOT WHAT HE MEANS--
11

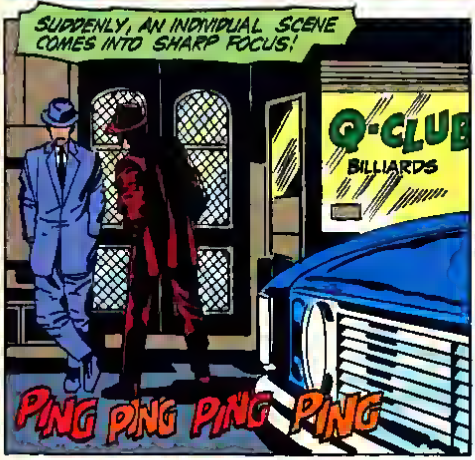
WHAT I MEAN IS, WHEN YOU SPEAK OF ME, YOU MUST CONVEY THE IMAGE OF AN EARTH MAN! I AM O'RYAN!--YOUR GANG LEADER!
WHAT? ARE YOU ASKING US TO PLAY ROUGH TYPES?
SHADES OF BONNIE AND CLYDE!

ALTHOUGH OUR FOES ARE THE EVIL MINIONS OF APOKOLIPS, THEIR LEADER, DARKSEID, HAS ORGANIZED A DIVISION OF EARTH CRIMINALS TO SERVE HIM--
INTER-GANG! SO THEY'RE OUR TARGET!

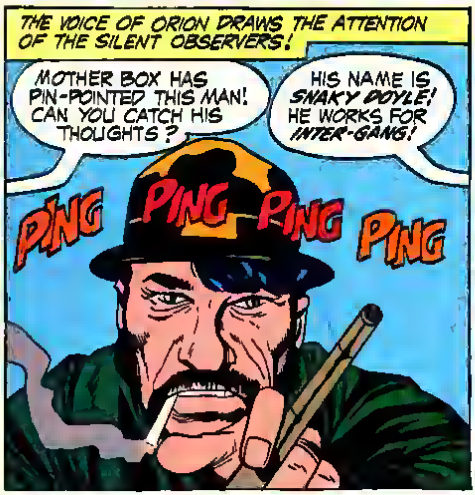

MOTHER BOX COMPLITES THAT THERE IS AN INSTRUMENT THAT SHIELDS ALL THOSE OF APOKOLIPS FROM HER! BUT INTER-GANG GUARDS THIS INSTRUMENT!
THOSE OF INTER-GANG ARE EARTHMEN! PERHAPS--VULNERABLE TO MOTHER BOX!

PLACE YOUR HANDS UPON HER! I WANT YOU TO SEE WHAT MOTHER BOX SEES IN HER EFFORT TO PENETRATE INTER-GANG!
IT'S A WILD EXPERIENCE! LIKE WATCHING A MOVIE WITH YOUR MIND!
ONLY THIS MOVIE IS REALLY HAPPENING!
PING PING PING


AS MOTHER BOX LOUDLY ACTIVATES, THE ENTIRE CITY OUTSIDE SEEMS TO RUSH INTO THE ROOM!--INTO THE MIND!--A WHIRLING MAZE OF BUILDINGS--STREETS--LIGHTS--CARS--
PING
PING
PING
PING


SUDDENLY, AN INDIVIDUAL SCENE COMES INTO SHARP FOCUS!
Q-CLUB
BILLIARDS
PING PING PING PING

THEN, A SHIFT TO THE INTERIOR OF THE BILLIARD PARLOR--
PING PING PING


THE VOICE OF ORION DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF THE SILENT OBSERVERS!
MOTHER BOX HAS PIN-POINTED THIS MAN! CAN YOU CATCH HIS THOUGHTS?
HIS NAME IS SNAKY DOYLE! HE WORKS FOR INTER-GANG!
PING PING PING PING

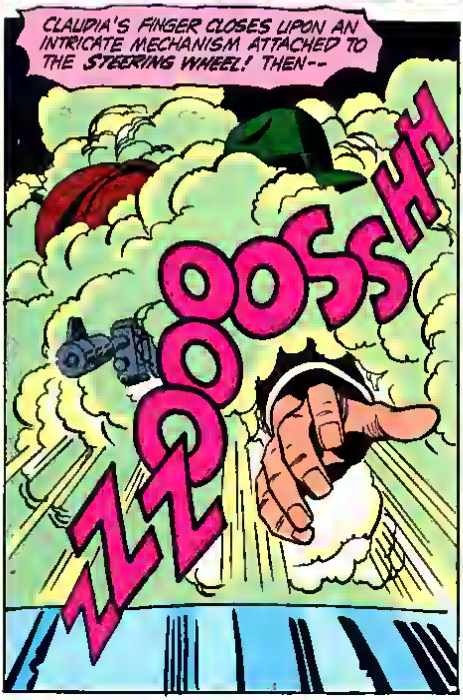
I CAUGHT A STRANGE WORD!... "JAMMER"!
THEN SNAKY IS MY MAN! THE "JAMMER" IS WHAT I SEEK! BUT ONLY YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL CAUSE HIM TO LEAD ME TO IT!
WE'RE LISTENING!

SOON AFTER, WHEN SNAKY DOYLE FINISHES HIS BILLIARD GAME...
SO LONG, SNAKY!
SEE YOU GUYS TOMORROW NIGHT!
YA BETTER SHOW UP! WE WANNA WIN OUR DOUGH BACK!
BUT AS SNAKY REACHES THE SHADOWS OF THE STREET CORNER...
HEY! WHA--?
QUIET! IF YUH UNZIP YER LIP, I'LL PLUG YA!
FEEL THAT? IT'S A ROD! IF YUH MAKE ME NERVOUS, IT'S GONNA GO OFF--INTO YER SKULL!
WHAT IS THIS--A HOLD-UP?
OKAY! OKAY! FRISK ME AND BLOW, YA CRUMB! BUT YOU'LL BE SORRY!
STOW IT! WHAT'S THIS IN YOUR POCKET?.. IT'S MAKIN' NOISES!
SOUNDS LIKE INTER-GANG'S ON THE OTHER END O' THIS GADGET--CALLIN' YA! ANSWER IT!
HOW'D YA KNOW ABOUT INTER-GANG!?
COME IN, SNAKY!
ANSWER IT!
TH-THIS IS SNAKY! WH-WHAT'S UP!--
REPORT TO THE SEASHORE BASE! IT'S YOUR TURN TO "BABY-SIT" WITH THE "JAMMER"!
14

OKAY! TAKE OFF! AND TELL INTER-GANG TO STAY OUTTA THIS TERRITORY! THE O'RYAN MOB HAS TAKEN OVER!
IN FACT, WE GOT ENOUGH BRAINS AND MUSCLE TO PUT YOU BUMS OUTTA BUSINESS!
BOP
WHEN SNAKY IS OUT OF EARSHOT...
YOU SAW AND HEARD, ORION! SNAKY'S UNIT CONTROLS A "JAMMER"!
YES! NOW WE MUST FOLLOW HIM--YOU AND THE OTHERS IN YOUR CAR--AND I SHALL BE ABOVE, HIDDEN FROM SIGHT, ASTRIDE THE ASTRO-GLIDER!
AN HOUR LATER, ON A LITTLE-USED SEA-COAST ROAD, A CAR ROLLS TO A STOP NEXT TO AN OLD MANSION WHICH HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS... ARMED GUARDS IMMEDIATELY MOVE MENACINGLY TOWARD THE DRIVER...
YUH CAN'T STOP HERE, MISS! YUH BETTER MOVE ON!
SORRY, FELLAS! MY CAR IS STALLED! MIND IF I GO INSIDE THE HOUSE AND PHONE THE LOCAL MECHANIC?
THE HOUSE IS OUTTA BOUNDS, CHICK! THINK OF SOMETHIN' ELSE!
WELL, I CAN'T LEAVE UNTIL I CAN START THIS CAR, CAN I?
OKAY! WE'LL PUSH THE HEAP WHILE YOU TRY FEEDING IT SOME GAS!
15

YOU BOYS ARE SWEET TO HELP OUT THIS WAY!
JUST STEP ON THE GAS, LADY, AND GET 'ER ROLLIN'!
WE'RE LUCKY THIS IS ONE OF THOSE SMALL JOBS!

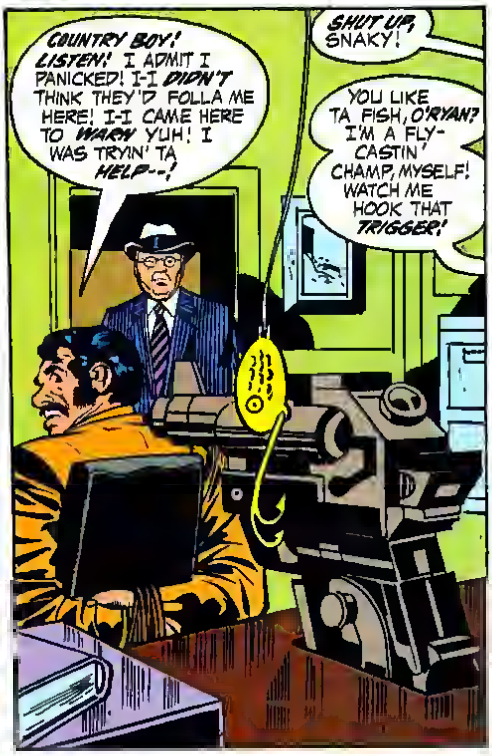
I'LL GIVE IT THE GAS, ALL RIGHT!-- THE KIND ORION WHIPPED UP FOR THIS OCCASION!
NOW TO SLOWLY CLOSE THE WINDOW! I HOPE THESE NASTIES DON'T NOTICE IT!


CLAUDIA'S FINGER CLOSES UPON AN INTRICATE MECHANISM ATTACHED TO THE STEERING WHEEL! THEN--
ZZZOOOSSHH

THE SLEEP VAPORS RELEASED FROM CAPSULES IN THE CAR'S EXHAUST PIPE IMMEDIATELY DO THEIR WORK!
THEY'LL BE OUT FOR HOURS! IT'S TIME FOR MY GANG TO SHOW UP NOW!
I LET THEM OFF A SHORT DISTANCE DOWN THE ROAD--TO GET HERE UNDER COVER OF THE SHRUBBERY!

SUDDENLY, FROM THE WOODS FACING THE MANSION...
GOOD WORK, DOLL! IT'S ALL CLEAR AHEAD!
IT LOOKS CLEAR! BUT BE CAREFUL, SON!
DO YOU FEEL ALL RIGHT, MISTER LANZA!
PLAYING INDIANS IN THE WOODS AT NIGHT IS SCARCELY MY CUP OF TEA, MISS SHANE!
NOBODY IN SIGHT, LINCOLN!
ORION'S MOTHER BOX COMPUTED THIS SETUP EXACTLY RIGHT! THE "JAMMER" CAN SHIELD AN APOKOLIPS TYPE FROM THE MOTHER BOX-- BUT NOT INTER-GANG!
YOUR JOB IS UP THERE, LANZA! YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY LITTLE CAESAR-- JUST HIS SMART BUSINESS MANAGER! OKAY?
I-I STILL DON'T KNOW-- I-I!
YOU'LL DO IT!-- ONCE THE CHIPS ARE DOWN! THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO UNCOVER THAT JAMMER FOR ORION!
I KNOW THAT ORION IS SOMEWHERE NEAR! BUT I'D FEEL BETTER IF I COULD SEE HIM-- WELL, HERE GOES!
HARUMMF-- UMMF--
COME ON IN, ORYAN! WE'VE BEEN EXPECTIN' YA! SEEIN' THAT OUR BOY SNAKY PRACTICALLY GAVE YUH A ROAD MAP!

WE FIGURED OUR BOYS MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO STOP YUH! SO COME IN! LET'S TALK!
YEAH! WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BAG!-- 'CEPTIN' WE'RE RUNNIN' A KINDA EXPENSIVE SERVICE THAT WOULD FRIGHTEN YOU STIFFS CLEAR TO MARS!


COUNTRY BOY! LISTEN! I ADMIT I PANICKED! I-I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D FOLLA ME HERE! I-I CAME HERE TO WARN YUH! I WAS TRYIN' TA HELP--,
SHUT UP, SNAKY!
YOU LIKE TA FISH, O'RYAN? I'M A FLY-CASTIN' CHAMP, MYSELF! WATCH ME HOOK THAT TRIGGER!

YER GETTIN' IT, COUNTRY BOY! IN ANOTHER SECOND THAT DUM DUM'LL GET PAID OFF FOR THINKIN' TOO HARD!
ONLY TROUBLE IS, THAT SNAKY DIDN'T THINK HARD ENOUGH! THAT'S WHY WE SUDDENLY GOT YOU ON OUR BACKS, O'RYAN!

BUT I'M NOT-- OH!
FWFFSSS
18

HEY! LOOK AT O'RYAN! HE'S TURNED GREEN! DIDN'T 'CHA EVER SEE A GUY GET IT BEFORE?
AAAA--SNAKY AIN'T DEAD!--BUT HE IS STIFF! PARALYZED! AND OUR GUNS CAN GET SPOOKIER THAN THAT!

Y'KNOW WHY? BECAUSE WE'RE BIG! WE'RE NO ORDINARY RACKETS OUTFIT LIKE YOU BUMS! WHO D'YA THINK YER PLAYIN' WITH!
THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE TO FIND OUT! I'M LANZA--I MAKE O'RYAN'S DEALS!

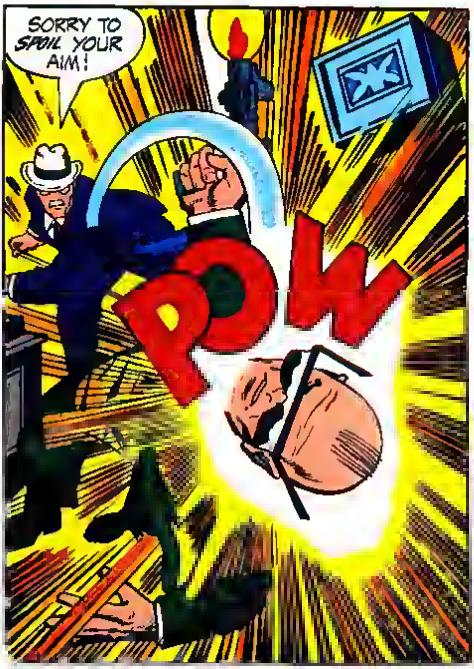
WE KNOW ABOUT INTER-GANG! BUT NOT ENOUGH! FRANKLY, WHAT I'VE SEEN SO FAR, I WOULDN'T SPEND A PENNY ON!
WHY, YOU-- YOU FAT, OLD BLOWHARD!

SEEIN' THAT YER NOT GOIN' TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE--I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER LOOK!
A FAST LOOK AT THE REAL INTER-GANG!

HOW ABOUT THIS, FINK? SOME TOY, EH? WELL THIS IS ONLY A SMALL PART OF OUR INVENTORY!
THE PARTY WE DEAL WITH CAN TAKE THIS THING APART AND SET IT UP AGAIN IN MINUTES! THAT'S ORGANIZATION AND POWER, MAN!

THEY'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE NOW! THE MASQUERADE HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE! I'VE FOUND YOUR "JAMMER"!
YEEOW
ARRRSSKK

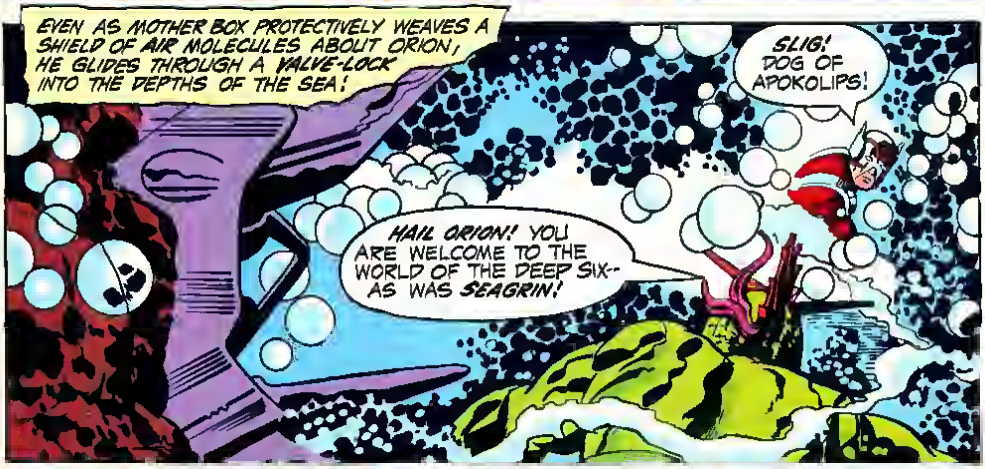
I AM ORION--OF NEW GENESIS!--AND MY POWER SHALL NOT BE BLUNTED BY YOUR MASTER'S INFERNAL MACHINES!
NOW I SHALL FACE THE KILLERS OF SEAGIN ON MORE EVEN TERMS!
NOT IF I GET YOU FIRST, MISTER!


SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR AIM!
POW

SO THERE AIN'T ANY O'RYAN GANG! I WAS UP AGAINST THE NEW GENESIS CROWD!
YEAH! IF YOU HAD SUSPECTED THAT--THE JAMMER WOULD HAVE BEEN DISMANTLED AND MOVED TO A SAFER SPOT!
YOU WERE JUST MARVELOUS, MISTER LANZA!

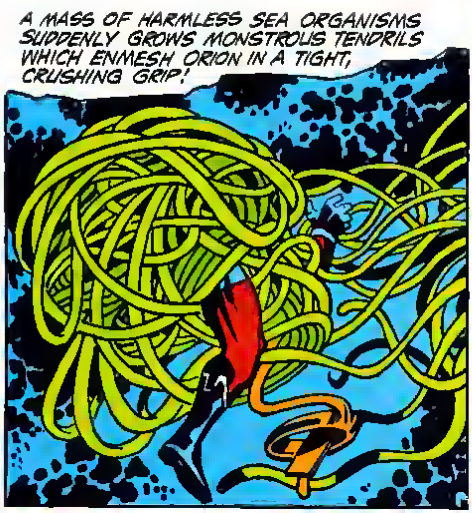
AND, NOW, BEYOND THE RUINED JAMMER LIES THE GREATER EVIL OF THE DEEP SIX!
MOTHER BOX IS SEEKING THEM WITHOUT HINDRANCE NOW!
PING
PING PING
PING PING

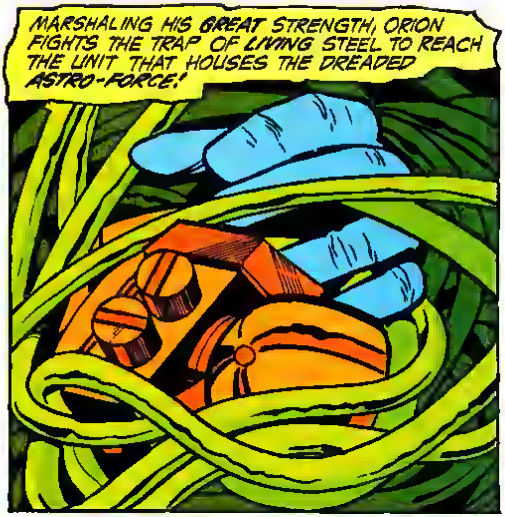
THE JAMMER HID THIS PLACE AND ITS OPERATION FROM HER! BUT SHE DID FIND SNAKY DOYLE, WHO LED US HERE!
NOTHING CAN STOP HER NOW! SHE HAS FOUND SLIG, LEADER OF THE DEEP SIX!


EVEN AS MOTHER BOX PROTECTIVELY WEAVES A SHIELD OF AIR MOLECULES ABOUT ORION, HE GLIDES THROUGH A VALVE-LOCK INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA!
SLIG! DOG OF APOKOLIPS!
HAIL ORION! YOU ARE WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF THE DEEP SIX-- AS WAS SEAGRIN!

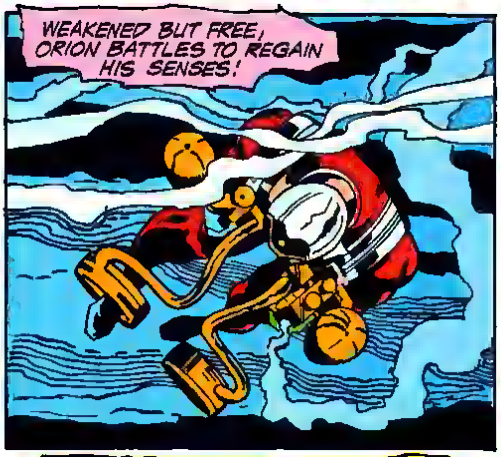
CAREFUL WITH YOUR WORDS, HERO! THE DEEP SIX RULE HERE!

YOU KNOW WE CAN MUTATE ORGANIC SEA LIFE SO IT DOES OUR BIDDING!


A MASS OF HARMLESS SEA ORGANISMS SUDDENLY GROWS MONSTROUS TENDRILS WHICH ENMESH ORION IN A TIGHT, CRUSHING GRIP!


MARSHALING HIS GREAT STRENGTH, ORION FIGHTS THE TRAP OF LIVING STEEL TO REACH THE UNIT THAT HOUSES THE DREADED ASTRO-FORCE!

THEN...
PWOW


WEAKENED BUT FREE, ORION BATTLES TO REGAIN HIS SENSES!

BUT WHAT HE SEES WHEN HE WHEELS TO ATTACK IS THE SHOCKING, MIND-SHATTERING THREAT WHICH THE DEEP SIX HAVE KEPT SECRET!

WHAT DOES ORION FACE? IT HAS DESTROYED A GOD--AND THREATENS THE ENTIRE EARTH!
DON'T MISS
SPAWN

COVER GALLERY

NO. 4

LIGHTRAY!
METRON! ORION!
AND KALIBAK!
THE GOOD,
THE BAD,
and the
ACADEMIC!

Scanned by

BATMONK